

Hundreds dead in Kabul revolt against Russians

Hundreds are believed to have died during the weekend uprising in Kabul. Although the city was quiet yesterday under Soviet guns, hatred of the Russians was simmering everywhere, according to messages reaching Islamabad and Delhi.

Hated Soviet troops split city in two

Islamabad, Feb 24.—Streets and pavements in Kabul are stained with blood after fighting in which hundreds of people are thought to have been killed, informed sources said here today.

The sources, who have access to reliable information in the Afghan capital, said that hospitals were strained to the limit. Some had run short of beds and medicine.

Evidence of large-scale killing is everywhere, particularly in the old city, one source said. "It is believed there are several hundred dead and the number of wounded could be in the thousands."

Afghanistan said today in a statement broadcast by Moscow radio that it had crushed an attempt to organize a revolt against the Soviet-backed Government.

The sources said that bazaars and shops in Kabul were closed for the fourth consecutive day in a sign of continuing unrest. Intermittent firing could also be heard.

"The city is extremely tense although Kabul is very much in the iron grip of Soviet and Afghan troops," a source said.

According to reports reaching here, Soviet troops in Kabul had continued to be reinforced and may now number about 5,000. Some were understood to be heading north-east and east towards the frontier with Paki-

stan, where they may try to seal off the border and try to prevent arms being smuggled in—Reuters.

Kabul cut in two: Soviet troops have cut Kabul in two and sealed off key areas from the Muslim rebels, according to reports reaching Delhi.

At 4.30 pm local time yesterday, Soviet forces were deployed in a way that split the city so as to improve control of residents' movements and traffic, already limited by many roadblocks. They sealed off the old bazaar, as well as the Micro-Rayon housing complex and the Balah Khesar fortress.

The Reports said that there had been a "tremendous intensification" of anti-Soviet hatred which was expected to lead to Soviet outposts' unrest. An unconfirmed report said that Afghan troops loyal to the Soviet-installed Babrak Karmal regime had fired only above the heads of the crowd, while the Russians had shot directly into the crowd—Agence France-Press.

Deputy Premier in Moscow: Mr Sultan Ali Khasnawar, the Afghan Second Deputy Prime Minister, is recovering in a Moscow hospital after treatment for a stomach ulcer, the Afghan Embassy in Moscow said today.

It denied that Mr Khasnawar had died from bullet wounds suffered during a clash within Afghanistan's ruling Revolutionary Council—Reuters.

Leading article, page 15

Herr Brandt 'sought as East-West mediator'

From Gretel Spitzer
Berlin, Feb 24

Herr Willy Brandt, chairman of West Germany's Social Democratic Party, and former Chancellor, was asked by the United States and the Soviet Union whether he would be willing to act as mediator between Washington and Moscow, Der Spiegel, the news magazine reported today.

Herr Lothar Schwarz, a spokesman for the SPD, partially confirmed the report. He said it was "correct" that Mr Brandt was being approached in this way, but that he was not yet ready to accept the role.

Asked whether he denied the report, he said: "No." He would not elaborate.

Reuters reports from Hamburg that an SPD spokesman said it was "correct" that Mr Brandt was being approached in this way, but that he was not yet ready to accept the role.

Der Spiegel's story, in brief, is as follows: On Friday, February 15, Herr Brandt submitted

the report of the North-South Commission to President Carter. The President asked Herr Brandt if he was prepared to undertake a trip to Moscow; in view of his good relations with Mr Brezhnev, it was felt he could get dialogue between East and West started again.

The magazine quotes Mr Carter as saying: "Please start on the assumption that we have got total again." Herr Brandt was reported to have reacted with caution, but to have let the President know that he was prepared to make such a trip.

According to the magazine, the Russians approached Herr Brandt on February 4, when Mr Vladimir Semynov, the Soviet Ambassador, gave Herr Brandt a list of what Moscow considered offences by the West against détente.

Washington responds: While declining any official comment on the report, Administration officials said it was quite possible that the President's senior foreign policy advisers had asked Herr Brandt to mediate with Moscow over Afghanistan (Our Washington Correspondent writes).



UN team in Tehran: President Bani-Sadr of Iran (centre), shaking hands with Mr Muhammad Bedjaoui of Algeria during the formal welcoming of the five-member commission of inquiry to Iran yesterday. The United Nations, which sponsors the commission, and the Carter Administration, hope that the investigation into the deposed Shah's

rule will lead to the release of the hostages held in the American Embassy in Tehran. The commission, composed of five lawyers, received promises of co-operation from Iranian leaders, including Mr Sadag Qorbzadah, the Foreign Minister. But government officials insisted that the commission's task was not to free the 49

American hostages, and it was not clear whether they would be allowed to see the captives. President Bani-Sadr has said that America's recognition of its past role in supporting the Shah in his alleged crimes against the Iranian people is a prime condition for the release of the hostages. But in an interview with the official Paris

news agency, Mr Qorbzadeh repeated that the commission and the hostages were separate issues. The whole issue of the hostages' release appears to have been postponed after a weekend statement by Ayatollah Khomeini handing over the setting of terms for their release to Iran's Parliament, which is to be elected next month.

Mr Sirs is expected to end union action at private steel firms

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Leaders of the main union concerned in the national steel strike, which this week enters its third month, this afternoon are expected to call off the action by its members in the private steel companies in the face of their increasing reluctance to stay out on strike.

The executive committee of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation will meet a short time after Mr William Sirs, the union's general secretary, has met senior British Steel Corporation officials at a TUC steel committee meeting.

Mr Sirs and Mr Hector Smith, leader of the blastfurnacemen's union, hope that British Steel will announce that it has dropped its deadline of 52,000 redundancies in the industry by the end of August.

British Steel officials refused to be drawn on what might be said at the steel committee meeting by Mr Robert Scholey, the corporation's chief executive, and Dr David Grieves, personnel director, but said that a delay in the closure programme did not mean that extra funds could be transferred to meet the unions' pay claim.

Mr Roy Evans, the confederation's assistant general secretary, said that he thought Mr Scholey's "abacus" was not working properly and that he had not taken into account the fact that the unions were offering a 15-month deal.

Confederation officials acknowledged that withdrawing the strike instruction from the private sector would weaken their position, and might stiffen the resolve of the "hawks" in the Cabinet who, the union believes, hope that the resolve of confederation members in British Steel will start to flag.

The union said yesterday that there was no evidence of this happening and it did not consider the votes to return to work by 5,000 workers at Hadfield and at other private sector companies as a defeat. With the private sector back at work, the union would start receiving subscriptions again and a levy of the private sector members to support the British Steel strike had not been ruled out.

The union's leaders are also angry at the corporation's response to the claim which was presented on Friday and which was dismissed by Mr Scholey as leaving a "massive" gap between the two sides.

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Hadfield's men revolt: Open revolt against the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation strike showed at the weekend with the decision by private sector steelworkers to resume normal work at Hadfield, one of Sheffield's biggest privately-owned steel companies (Ronald Kershaw writes from Sheffield).

Workers at Sheffield's other big steelmaker, Firth Brown, have also decided on a return to work.

Protest strike call: Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, yesterday called for a national one-day stoppage in protest against Government policies (The Press Association reports).

"We are asking people on (Wednesday) May 14 to take the day off from work to demonstrate their protest and to make their voices heard," told a meeting of Dover Trades Council.

A protest march in London has already been fixed for March 9.

Mr Murray said: "We shall not be fooled by talk of bringing the Government down. We want to say: 'We don't like your policies. They must be replaced by policies which bind the wounds of the nation'."

Miners work on after big snub to leaders

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

South Wales miners have rejected by a crushing majority the recommendation by their leaders to start an indefinite strike from today.

Work will continue normally in the area's 36 pits after the men voted by 22,000 to 4,000 to rebel against their executive committee, who called the action in protest against the British Steel Corporation's plan to run down steelmaking in Wales. That the executive said, could lead to the closure of up to 20 pits, with the loss of 14,000 jobs.

The miners' decision, which was supported by workers at the most militant mines in the area, led to calls for the resignation of the union's leadership and renewed accusations that they were out of touch with grass roots feeling.

After a long meeting of the executive on Saturday, Mr George Rees, secretary of the South Wales miners, said it was "extremely disappointed" with the results, although they showed that his miners would be willing to take industrial action as long as it was organized on a national basis throughout Britain's coalfields by the national executive.

Mr Rees said a statement by Mr Philip Weekes, area director of the National Coal Board, that it would be "bloody madness" to strike, convinced the miners into thinking they have job security and prospects.

"The NCB will now think the miners are beaten and that the way is open to announce pit closures, but I have no doubt the men would fight them on that issue," he said.

"The NCB will try to announce a programme of pit closures in the near future and we can prove they have drawn up a list of 12 mines they would like to get rid of."

Mr Rees claimed that the NCB, after asking the miners to take steps to prevent the importation of foreign coals, had destroyed their efforts by "interference" in the ballot and had undermined their backing agreements with the dockers.

Tomorrow a special delegate conference is to discuss the alleged interference, which coal board officials strongly deny. The delegates will also examine why their unanimous recommendation was so clearly at odds with the mood of the coalfield.

Union indiscipline, page 14

Oil tanker disaster poses threat to Greek bay

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Feb 24

Four anti-pollution squads of the Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine were working today at the Bay of Pylos in south-western Greece to prevent an ecological disaster after the Greek tanker Irene Serenades sank with 101,000 tons of crude oil on board.

The tanker, which was carrying the oil from Syria to Trieste, put in at Pylos yesterday for refuelling. A sudden explosion followed by a fire left in flames and half-sunk about one mile from the harbour.

The first mate and the purser were reported missing, but the remaining crew—12 Greeks and 17 foreigners—were safe on shore.

The tanker sank early today after a series of explosions. The fire died down, but oil continued to gush out of the hull.

The anti-pollution teams, working from four special craft, tried to restrict the oil slick which, if left unchecked, could destroy all the marine life in the bay, considered one of the most beautiful in Greece.

The narrow passages to the open sea mean that it could take decades for the water in the bay to be renewed. The bay is three and a half miles long and two miles wide.

Security forces show off Soviet tanks as rallies end Rhodesia poll campaign

From Nicholas Ashford
and Dan van der Vat
Salisbury, Feb 24

The election campaign for the 80 African seats in the Salisbury Parliament came to an end today with the last big weekend rallies by the contending parties. Voting takes place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

One notable absentee from the weekend rallies was Mr Robert Mugabe, leader of the radical Zanu (PF) party. He was to have spoken at a meeting at Umtali yesterday, but changed his plans after a rocket was found outside the stadium. He has not addressed a rally for two weeks, having also failed to appear at a meeting at Bulawayo a week ago: again for security reasons.

As Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front (PF), and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the former Prime Minister and leader of the UANC, addressed the 570 British police men were being sent out today to rural polling stations, ready to reassure voters of the security and honesty of the ballot. The men arrived here at the weekend with tropical weight uniforms and their traditional helmets.

The Rhodesian Security Forces have proudly displayed their latest military acquisition to the Rhodesian press—Soviet

T55 tanks. In an extraordinarily insensitive and untimely demonstration, the Security Forces also disclosed that they had acquired air-to-air missiles for their ageing British-made Hawker Hunter fighters.

The Rhodesians are believed to have about 32 Soviet tanks, enough to equip about half an armoured regiment. They are understood to have been sent on an East European cargo ship by Colonel Gaddafi of Libya to President Amin of Uganda as the Amin regime was collapsing.

The ship was apparently diverted at sea to Durban, South Africa, from where the tanks were brought into Rhodesia.

As foreshadowed in reports in The Times last week, good news appears imminent on the vexed question of integrating the two guerrilla armies—the Mugabed Zanu and the pro-Nkomo Zippa—with the Security Forces. A site near Bulawayo is believed to have been chosen for the assembly of about 1,000 men—one third from each force—to be trained as the first post-independence integrated regiment.

Formation of an integrated unit before independence is regarded here as the minimum necessary to allay fears of a renewal of civil war.

Muzorewa plea and Mr Nkomo accuses, page 6; Election complications, page 14

President Tito weakened by pneumonia

Belgrade, Feb 24.—President Tito, now suffering from pneumonia as well as serious kidney trouble and his power of resistance is clearly declining.

He had been put on a dialysis machine which seemed to have subdued his weakened kidneys but because of prolonged rest he developed pneumonia which was disclosed yesterday.

This provoked a storm of protest from the audience, and the comment from Mr Reagan: "I am the sponsor, and I suppose I have some rights." Mr Reagan abandoned his objections, Mr Reagan blamed Mr Bush for the confusion and for the exclusion of the other four candidates, while his rival sat uncomfortably off to one side.

The other four then walked off, shaking Mr Reagan's hand and ignoring Mr Bush.

"There'll be another day. Continued on page 6, col 5

Thatcher plan for Budget and cuts in 'one big dose'

Mrs Thatcher is considering delivering one big dose of bitter medicine by deferring the White Paper on public expenditure cuts by a week, on which it is expected to propose a reduction of a further £700m in next year's spending plus any reduction in Britain's contribution to the European Economic Community—Page 2

London's 'noise police'

"Party police" to control late-night noise are operating in parts of London. "Police", environmental health officers, who are accompanied by real police, are available to call on parties as soon as a complaint is received—Page 4

EEC-Yugoslavia pact

The EEC and Yugoslavia have concluded a preferential trading agreement after two years of negotiations. It is hoped that it will improve Yugoslavia's economic strength and its ability to defend its non-aligned status—Page 6

Press vindicated

The Press Council has said its inquiry failed to establish that the press acted improperly towards Professor Henry Bedson, who killed himself after a small-n outbreak in Birmingham—Page 4

Israeli currency flight

The Israelis have reacted to the introduction of the shekel, their biblically inspired new currency, with a run on Arab money-changers. Food prices have sharply increased. The general reaction to the shekel's name has been unfavourable—Page 6

13,000 laid off today at British Leyland

Nearly 13,000 British Leyland employees will be laid off and 6,500 on short-time working today. A planned programme of layoffs caused by the sharp drop in the market share of BL vehicles will affect 21,000 workers, 18 per cent of the workforce, over the next few weeks—Page 17

Attack on Phalangist

Mr Bashir Gemayel, the military commander of Lebanon's Phalangists, escaped a bomb attempt on his life, but his daughter and seven others were killed. The attack dashed prospects of talks aimed at forging a national unity—Page 6

U S warning on coup

Amid fears that a right-wing coup is imminent in El Salvador the United States has said it will cut off aid to any new regime which fails to respect human rights and frustrates reforms—Page 7

Benn bafflement: Associates of Mr Wedgwood Benn denied that he had ever controlled Labour's left-dominated national executive

Sea treasure: Two divers have salvaged a frigate worth £100,000 from the liner Oceanic, which sank off Scotland in 1914—Page 2

RSPCA revolt: Activists in the RSPCA decided to campaign for changes in the Government's Farm Animal Welfare Council

Brussels: An intriguing constitutional tussle is developing over the issue of exporting surplus EEC butter to Russia—Page 6

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 25, 26; Appointments, 12, 23, 24; Commercial property, 11

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Americans win gold in ice hockey

The United States ice hockey team came from behind to beat Finland 4-2 and win the gold medal at the Winter Olympics. On Friday night they provided the surprise of the Games by beating the Soviet Union—Page 8

Leader page 15

Letters: On Inner London schooling, from Mr Martin Lightfoot; on British agriculture, from Mr Malcolm Tall; on Union peace groups, from Mrs Christopher Ewart-Biggs. Leading articles: Afghanistan; Press Council and the Birmingham smaltop case. Features, pages 7, 14

Nicholas Ashford on the complications of Rhodesia's elections; Paul Routledge on the new mood of the unions; Trevor Fishlock on the America's Cup. Sport, pages 8-10

Cricket: Howarth hits highest Test score; West Indies delay resumption of play; Tennis: Amiraj in WCT final against Borg; Rugby Union: Injuries in Scottish team; Racing: Champion Hurdle back to form. Arts, page 15

Ned Chaffer interviews Philip Martin, whose play *Three girls* opens at the National tomorrow. Kay Die Welcomes an abridged edition of *Freud's Life of Carl Gustav*; William Mann on a Cambridge operatic anniversary celebration. Features, page 16

Mr Evan Maude, Air Commodore James Warburton. Business News, pages 17-22. Financial Editor: Lessons from the liquidity squeeze; Composite insurers braced for lower profits. Business features: John Huxley on the return of an eighteenth century cotton mill; David Hewson on the future of London's dockland. Business Diary profiles Richard Langdon, accountant. Management: A United States retail giant in the money markets; training top secretaries; new thoughts on insider dealing.

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Picture the scene:

On the one hand, a man born, bred and hardened in the West Riding, running his own small chemical company.

On the other, a man born, bred and hardened in West Byfleet, running a large investment company somewhere in the City.

The only thing they have in common is money.

One needs it. The other has popped up from the City for the day to see if he can help.

But it's going to take more than the knowledge of the finer points of finance.

Because, financing and also helping smaller businesses is a highly specialised and local affair.

And frankly, no one can help you better than ICFC.

That's because over the years we've dealt exclusively with small businessmen, so we reckon to understand them pretty well.

You'll see what we mean if you contact one of our offices dotted around the country.

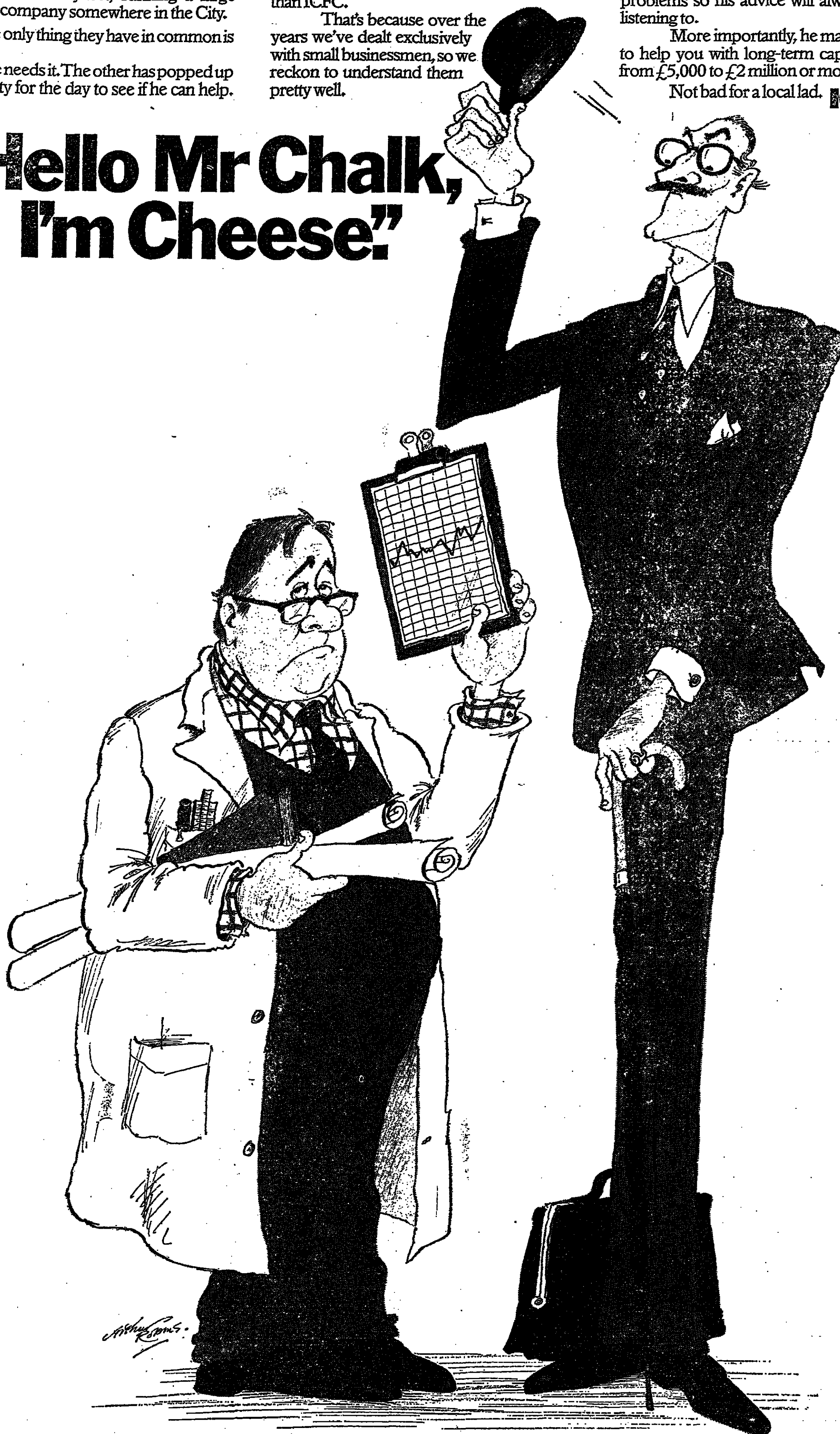
Each one is run by a man who knows the area and the people like the back of his hand.

He will understand you and your problems so his advice will always be worth listening to.

More importantly, he may well be able to help you with long-term capital, anything from £5,000 to £2 million or more.

Not bad for a local lad. **ICFC**

"Hello Mr Chalk, I'm Cheese."



HOME NEWS

Farm welfare group changes sought after RSPCA dispute

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

Animal welfare activists decided yesterday to campaign for changes in the Government's Farm Animal Welfare Council, after a meeting on Saturday of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Attempts at the meeting to unseat half the RSPCA's governing council failed. Council members were attacked for forbidding two senior staff members of the society to accept an invitation to join FAWC from Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture.

Mr Richard Ryder, a former chairman of the society, said yesterday: "It was a sad day. Nobody won and the animals lost." He had been prevented on Saturday from proposing that the society should appeal to Mr Walker to change the constitution of the FAWC.

Mr Ryder wanted Mr Walker to remove voting rights on the FAWC from those members of it who are associated with practices like factory farming, which the RSPCA opposes. "I think it will be difficult for Mr Walker to climb down, but I think he is a big enough man to do so," Mr Ryder said.

The RSPCA has lost credibility over this and the FAWC has lost credibility.

Almost 1,400 animal-lovers

assembled in London on Saturday for a set-piece battle in the long struggle for control of the society. At stake is an annual income of more than £2m, protected from full tax rates by the charitable status of the RSPCA. Members showed that they love animals much more than they love each other.

Last year the RSPCA council voted by 11 to 10 to forbid staff to join the FAWC. A motion on Saturday calling for the resignation of the 11 from the council failed to reach the 50 per cent vote needed.

While ostensibly about the FAWC, the angry five-hour debate was really about fundamental policy. Mr Ronald Burfield, a former chief superintendent in the animal inspection of the society, said: "Today we have been subjected to the bawls and howls of extremists."

Mr Richard Corse, one of the 11, said amid loud cheers: "There is no motion to expel factory farmers from the RSPCA, is there?"

Miss Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth, Drake, and chairman of the society, was asked on Saturday about the split at the meeting. "I would not regard it as causing any lasting damage whatever," she said.

Agriculture column, page 16

Custody deaths 'link with complaints'

By Our Political Editor

A tendency for a higher number of deaths in police custody to occur in areas where complaints of alleged police assault were higher than the national average is added today in support of a renewed call to the Home Secretary for a public inquiry into such deaths.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, claims a "significant and close connection" between the two incidences and states in a letter to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, that that makes a public inquiry "imperative".

Mr Meacher believes that such an inquiry ought to concern at least a sample of the 245 who so died between 1970 and 1979 in England and Wales. Mr Whitelaw is deferring a decision pending conclusion of the inquiry into the death in police custody of Mr James Kelly, in Merseyside.

In reaching his complaint-death connection, Mr Meacher has correlated complaints alleging police assault per 10,000 arrests in 1978 with the 1970-79 deaths in custody per 10,000 arrests, which, he argues, is not statistically improper.

He finds nine police areas which exceed the national average of 34 assault complaints per 10,000 arrests, and in six of them the number of deaths in custody exceed the 2.7 average.

The highest ratios, on Mr Meacher's comparison, were in London: the City of London, with 10.5 deaths and 72 complaints; and the Metropolitan area, with 8.3 deaths and 42 complaints; both are calculated on a rate of 10,000 arrests in 1978.

Mr Meacher, calling on Mr Whitelaw to avoid "further unreasonable delay" in publishing the full details of the 245 persons who died, also discloses new information he received from the Attorney General in a preliminary written reply. It is that only 26 complaints were received after the 245 deaths, but that 18 of them alleged assault causing death.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has not brought charges in any

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London boroughs set up teams to enforce noise control under the pollution Act

By Penny Symon

Every weekend London's "party police" report for duty, armed with sensitive ears, noise meters and a tactful but firm manner. Their task is to try to ensure that Saturday night exuberance does not interfere with neighbours' right to sleep.

The "police" are, in fact, environmental health officers, who have the difficult task of dealing with complaints about noisy parties under the Control of Pollution Act, 1974.

People with a complaint, however, usually telephone the police, who will intervene only if a breach of the peace is being caused, or licensing laws contravened. Otherwise they will advise complainants to get in touch with the local authority.

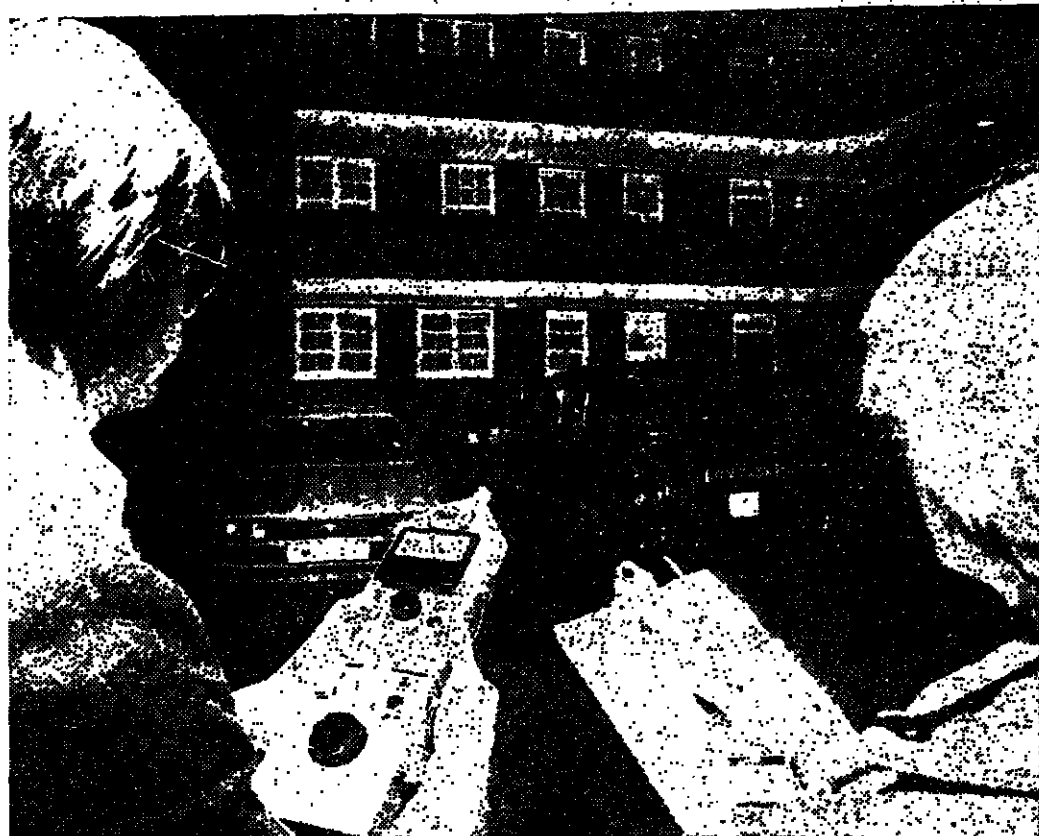
But not every town hall employs staff to man a weekend emergency telephone answering service, and complainants can be left feeling angry and helpless as the din continues.

The London Borough of Hackney has devised a bold scheme to overcome that difficulty. Its environmental health officers, working on a voluntary rota, visit the borough's four police stations in turn on Saturday nights, so that when the complaints come in they can go to the scene with police officers in a patrol car.

The Control of Pollution Act has given local authorities wide powers, stating that where they are satisfied that noise amounting to a nuisance exists, or is likely to occur or recur, they can serve a notice requiring its abatement.

Therefore we can serve a notice before a party is held if we feel that it is likely to cause a nuisance because we have evidence that there have been noisy parties in that particular house before," Mr Christopher White, Hackney's principal environmental health officer, said.

A person will perhaps pay



Mr Glen Partridge, coordinator of Southwark Borough Council's noise patrol, and Miss Antonia Darwall, checking sound levels with meters outside a block of flats last week.

the owner of a house for the use of his basement, or take over an empty house, and charge people to get in. Drink is sold, and the noise can continue all night and well into the next day. A great deal of money is made that way each weekend.

The local authority's difficulty in those cases is finding the correct person on whom to serve a notice. The Act says that it should be served on the person responsible for the nuisance, or, if he cannot be found, the owner or occupier of the premises.

"This is easier said than done if the person opening the door denies he is giving the party and does not know who it is," Mr White said.

"Perhaps the noise is turned down while the officer is there, and turned up again the moment he has gone. I have been in a situation where I was backed up against the balcony on the sixth floor with a

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crowd round me. I was pleased to have the police there. "You are always wary when you knock on the door. Bringing offenders to court is long and often complicated matter, as serving the summons is often as fraught with danger as serving the original notice, and officers are often frustrated by delay.

Between last May and December 126 complaints were received, 300 visits made and 108 notices served, 43 resulting in requests for legal proceedings.

Of those, 10 have been successful, two were dismissed by the magistrates, 18 are pending, and in the rest the summonses were either withdrawn or not served. Fines totalled £220, with £80 costs. The Act allows a fine of up to £200 for a first offence, and £400 for subsequent ones.

Hackney's officers do not use sound-level meters to measure noise, preferring to rely on their ears.

The London Borough of Southwark has a different system. Its officers, also working on a voluntary rota, drive round on Friday and Saturday nights equipped with meters and telephone the town hall every hour to get reports of complaints.

Mr A. Bazely, Southwark's chief environmental health officer, said: "We prefer to use the meter so that we can back up our findings if challenged in court."

We also prefer not to go out with police officers on the following day, not on the spot unless in an emergency. Then we would ask for police protection, as we have experienced violence."

"We experience an average delay of three months in bringing the cases to court," Mr Bazely said. "We serve about 120 notices a year, and 10 per cent of those end up as a summons. Most of them result in a successful prosecution."

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In brief

County Council sues over ship

Isle of Wight County Council is taking legal action against the owners of a ship believed responsible for the canisters of lethal arsenic trichloride washed ashore on the island's beaches. It wants compensation for the operation of clearing the beaches.

The council blames the 8,600-ton Tunisian vessel, Torrez, which sheltered in Tor Bay during a storm last month. Mr Laurie Campbell, chief scientific adviser, said: "It appears that a big package or packing case fell overboard."

Oxford invitation to Lord Denning

Lord Denning has accepted an invitation to sign copies of his book, *The Due Process of Law*, at the Oxford Union next Saturday, two weeks after Blackwell's bookshop, Oxford, issued an advertisement by him because of threats of demonstrations.

Humbeside and West Sussex rates fixed

West Sussex County Council has approved a new county rate of 98p in the pound, a rise of 14p, or 15.7 per cent. Humbeside County Council has fixed a rate of £1.01 in the pound, an increase of 24p, or 31 per cent.

Hunt for girl's killer

About 70 policemen were attempting yesterday to find the killer of Lorraine Dillon, aged 18, a part-time hotel chambermaid, whose body was found in the rubbish room of a block of flats near her home in Coarbridge, Strathclyde, on Saturday.

Halt, toads crossing

Signs are to be erected to give warning of toads crossing the road near the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation reserves at Dowdeswell reservoir, Strathclyde, on Saturday.

Bus strike ends

The 280 Ribbles bus men at Bootle whose four-day unofficial strike over the dismissal of a conductor had disrupted services on Merseyside, decided yesterday to return to work.

Three children killed

Three young children died in a fire at their home at Drummanagh, Co. Down, Ulster, early yesterday. Their parents, Mr and Mrs Dominic Carroll, and a three-month-old baby escaped.

TV viewer at 106

Mrs Caroline Black, a widow, of Turret Court, East Grinstead, Sussex, was 106 yesterday. One of her main interests is watching television, tennis and golf on television.

Protest over NF march

Hundreds of demonstrators marched through Canterbury, south London, yesterday, calling for a proposed National Front march next Sunday to be banned. They were escorted by about 300 police officers.

of evidence, including that of Dr G. R. B. Skinner, senior lecturer in Birmingham University's microbiology department, who said he telephoned Professor Bedson once, finding him troubled and tired but not complaining about answering inquiries.

The department was "barred" by calls from the media and the concerned, sometimes inquisitive, public. Professor Bedson's critics, mentioning peace might refer to the avalanche of inquiries.

Dr Skinner later told the Press Council that the press repeatedly telephoned the Bedson home and his own. In answer, they noted that if they were not given information only the worst could be interpreted.

Mrs Ann Bedson's evidence to the inquiry was that during her husband's quarantine there were continuous telephone calls from eight in the morning until late at night, mostly from the press. Many of the callers had already been told of another number to telephone, but not one told her she could have her calls intercepted.

Mrs Bedson said that when she found her husband wounded she wanted to call an ambulance, but "somebody from the press or media" telephoned. She asked them three times to clear the line before she could dial 999.

She thought her husband's reference in a note to some peace for her and the children referred to the constant bounding they had been having by the press rather than the public.

A family friend, Dr Kevin McCarthy, Professor of Medical Microbiology at Liverpool University, said that when he visited the house the day before the professor's injury there were "not all that many" calls. Professor Bedson, who was harassed, told him the telephone never stopped.

When the Press Council asked the coroner to which media his comments referred, he said that evidence at the inquiry mentioned only the press but there must have been broadcasting inquiries.

Mr Paul Castle, West Midlands Regional Health Authority public relations officer, and his staff told the Press Council that the coroner's inquiry into the professor's death was unfair to Professor Bedson to refer calls to them. He was grateful but said he would answer technical questions.

Leading article, page 15

Report on fenced-in lorry justified, Press Council says

A light-hearted newspaper report that council workmen fenced in their lorry was justified by information the reporter was given, the Press Council ruled yesterday.

It rejected a complaint by Mrs Gwyneth Hamilton, of Upland Road, Leeds, that after publishing a report containing untrue allegations reflecting on her husband's competence and work the *Sunday Express* failed to correct them when informed of their falsity.

Brian Duffy had reported that two Leeds City Council labourers worked all week erecting a fence by a flower bed outside an old people's home. They forgot to leave a gap for their lorry and later left of fence had to be ripped out to release it.

Mrs Hamilton's complaints included the fact that her husband was a joiner, not a labourer, and that he and his colleague parked a caravan, not a lorry, in the enclosure.

She did not see the incident. Mr O'Neill is a member of the Southampton Hunt Saboteurs' Association. About 15 members tried to sabotage the New Forest Foxhounds' hunt on Saturday.

Sir Newton Rycroft, master of the hunt, said: "The incident was in no way connected with a hunt, which at the time was about two miles away."

In the university where Professor Bedson's important research into smallpox was taking place was a matter of national and international public interest. Newspapers, television and radio organisations were rightly anxious to obtain as much information as they could about the work of the department, the precautions taken there, instances of Mrs Parker's infection; and to publicise it in the public interest.

A careful inquiry by the Press Council, which considered the coroner's notes of evidence given at the inquiry on Professor Bedson, has failed to establish any example of an individual journalist or organisation acting improperly or inconsiderately towards Professor Bedson or members of his family.

In the light of this, the Press Council believes the remarks of the coroner were ill-considered insofar as they reflected adversely on the conduct of individual journalists and organisations.

To leave the matter there, however, would be to underestimate the cumulative effect which repeated telephone inquiries made to a household not geared to receive them, was likely to have on Professor Bedson. It must have caused great strain.

The tragedy of this case is that the professor was to a degree a victim of his own conscientiousness. The matter was of acute public importance. It was inescapable that it would provoke close and repeated inquiries.

Professor Bedson was clearly anxious to reply to inquiries, particularly those raising technical matters, should be accurate, and perhaps unwittingly but for the best of motives he decided to take calls himself.

In the council's view there is something wrong with a system where someone as vulnerable as Professor Bedson is subjected to such heavy pressure from public, press, television, radio and local radio inquiries on top of the strain and concern, and extra work, which the smallpox infection must have caused him.

The likelihood is that no one, including the newspaper and news organisations, the university and the health authorities, appreciated the volume of pressure there would be.

With hindsight, it would have been better if, notwithstanding Professor Bedson's willingness to cope, the university or local health authorities had insisted on taking the answering of press and public inquiries away from the Bedson household and routed them to the university or health authorities' information departments.

Newspapers and news organisations, while properly anxious to perform their function of finding out and informing the public, and understandingly concerned to maintain their freedom to make individual inquiries, should recognize the cumulative effect their activity may have on an individual.

Where their inquiries may focus such severe pressure as this on an individual they should be ready to cooperate with arrangements to

Hunt saboteur's jaw broken in 'attack by gang'

A hunt saboteur was in a hospital last night with a broken jaw after being attacked in the New Forest. Mr Patrick O'Neill, aged 45, of Westley Close, Winchester, was said to be "quite comfortable" in Southampton General Hospital after an operation.

Forest draw away from the hunt when a car pulled up and a gang of men got out," his wife, who is a magistrate, said. She did not see the incident.

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Nuclear power warning by consumers' council

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Electricity Consumers' Council, in its second annual report, criticises the Electricity Council's medium-term development plan for the electricity supply industry.

It fears that the Electricity Council's "firm pro-nuclear position" may mean that there will be a rush to order a series of new power stations ahead of need.

The consumers' council, set up by the Labour government in 1977 and financed by the Department of Trade, argues that nuclear power may have an important role to play when oil and gas supplies run out, but the enormous capacity Britain has for producing electricity from coal should not be forgotten as a determined

energy and a determined conservation policy could also contribute and "a heavy emphasis on nuclear power would not seem in consumers' short- or long-term interests."

Commenting on the industry's performance, the report says there has been an encouraging increase in the efficiency of generating the nuclear power, but the increasing frequency with which the Magnox nuclear power stations are out of service is a cause for concern.

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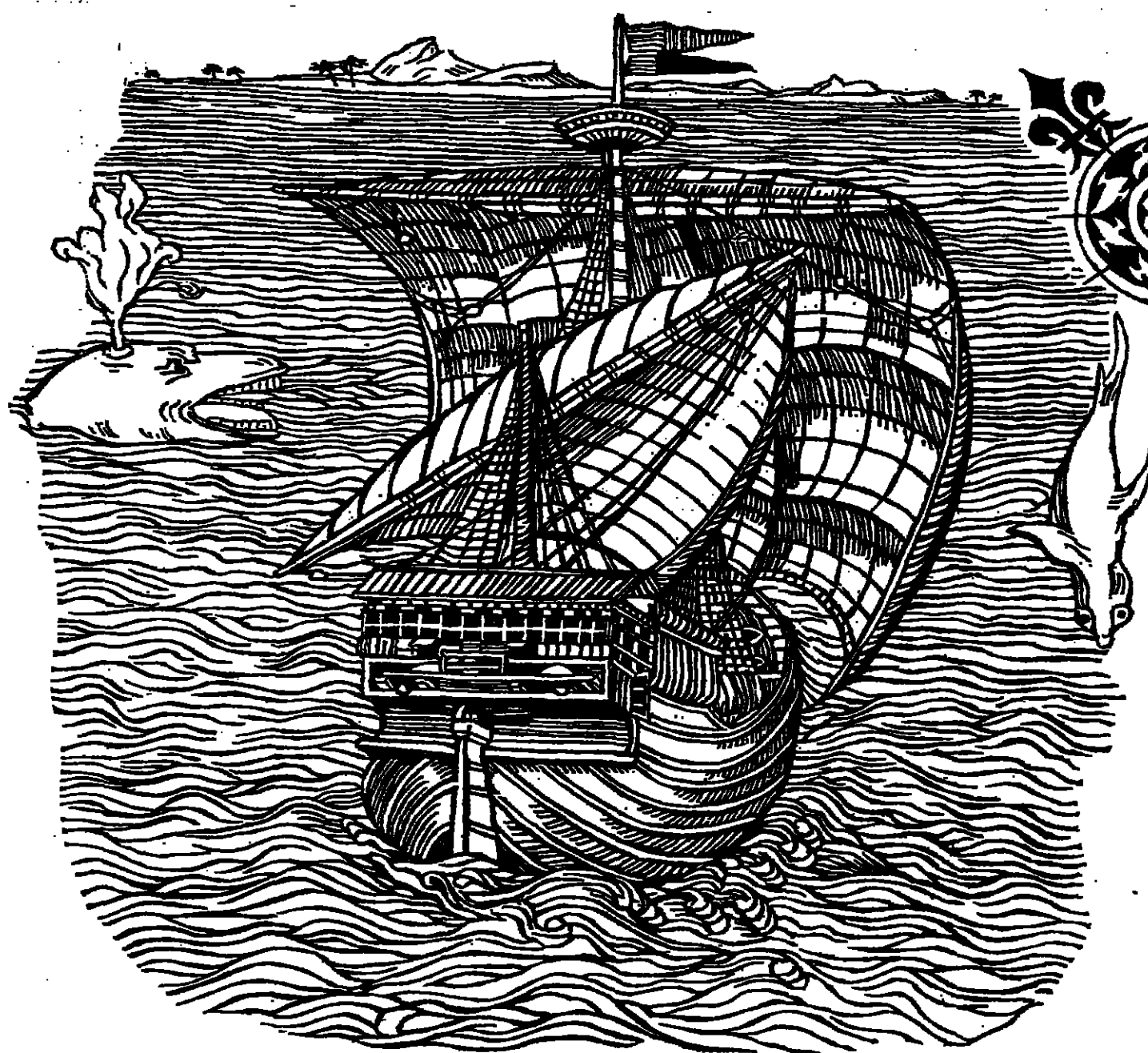
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energy



In the sixteenth century the Spanish landed in the Philippines.

On April 8th the first of our new scheduled flights to the Philippines will land in Manila.

A journey of nearly 8,000 miles that will take our comfortable, wide-bodied TriStar approximately 16½ hours.

It's a far cry from 1521 when Magellan, during the first round the world voyage, decided to drop in and visit the locals.

Paradise Lost.

Magellan himself didn't last long in the Philippines.

The unfortunate fellow was killed while helping one Filipino group fight another.

But his discovery of the islands led to Spain moving in and setting up shop on a more permanent basis.

The Spaniards loved the place.

Especially the gold and silver they had seen the tribesmen wearing as jewellery.

Talk about gold fever.

They stayed on in the islands for the next 300 years. Right up until 1898 when they were finally given the heave-ho.

Uncle Sam in Paradise.

Spain's hasty exit was the result of a group of Filipinos who by now were tired of the Spanish ruling their roost.

They fought alongside the Americans in the Spanish-American war of 1898, to rid themselves of their unwanted guests.



But the delight of the Filipinos at saying goodbye to the Spaniards soon dissolved when they realized the Americans had taken a fancy to the islands. And for the next few decades they had to share them with Uncle Sam.

To be fair though, the U.S. did help the Philippines develop into a modern nation.

They not only brought roads, railroads, schools and doctors to the islands. They also gave the people ideas about democracy.

Then, in 1941, right out of the blue, the Japanese called by.

Paradise Regained.

The men of Japan outstayed their welcome for 3 years. Until they were finally persuaded to leave by the Americans.

At last, in 1946, the U.S. gave the Filipinos the one thing they hadn't enjoyed for many a year.

Independence.

Looking at the Philippines today it's no wonder that so many people wanted the place for themselves.

This dazzling chain of 7,107 islands stretches for over 1,000 miles in tropical seas.

And is jam-packed full of wonders.



Old Castilian towns, stunning aquamarine life and a fantastic array of exotic fruits and vegetation.

Not to mention countless sun-drenched beaches. (It's enough to give you a sun tan just thinking about it.)

Known as the 'Last Great Bargain of the Orient' the Philippines is also a delight for people who are weary of V.A.T. and inflation.

Manila, especially, is a treasure-trove of shops selling goods at give-away prices.

All of which is tempting in the extreme.

If you've never been to the Philippines we'd like to show it to you in all its splendour.

If you've been and are going back, be it on business or pleasure, why not be our guests.

After all, if history is anything to go by, we're going to be in the islands for a long time to come.

Now it's our turn.



British Airways

We'll take more care of you.

SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL

OVERSEAS

Thunderous relic of British Raj ready to pull troop train to Khyber Pass

Pakistan relies on a 60-year-old locomotive

From Robert Fisk
Lahore, Feb. 24

At 8.30 in the morning, the engine driver, a bristly and mustachioed Peshawari, with a rope on his head and 18 years' experience with Pakistan State Railways under his arm, wiped his oil cloth over the firebox of his 60-year-old steam engine, knowingly tapping the oil lubricator.

Every schoolboy would love Number 2511. She has six driving wheels, a smokestack with a red band like a top hat, a rusting boiler under constant repair, a squadron of gaskets that leak steam and a footplate that reeks of oil, smoke and freshly-brewed tea.

She makes a noise like thunder and is one of the last living relics of British imperial India.

By an unpleasant coincidence of history, she has also become a vital piece of machinery along Pakistan's nervous western frontier.

The Ministry of Defence in Islamabad, therefore, pays for the upkeep of the 36 miles of

track and subsidizes Mr. Khan's weekly excursions to the fortress of Landi Kotal.

Civil servants' families take advantage of the day's outing for a theatrical first class return of 50p.

Number 2511 stops the grass growing over the permanent way and her attendant lords with their oil cloths and green flags prevent the tribesmen from building their mud-walled houses near to the 18 tunnels which puncture the precipitous cliff-face up the pass.

Number 2511 certainly needs a subsidy. No one seems to buy any tickets, bare-footed farm

second class green and cream carriage when the train is chuntering its way in black smoke through villages, and the footplate—quite apart from the boiler—needs a minimum of three engine drivers and two firemen.

Being an old and exclusive locomotive, however, Number 2511 has her rules.

They are invented by Pakistan State Railways and Mr. Khan knows them all by heart.

"Every year," he said, "we have to repair this engine. We have to change the wheels but the real problem is to watch the boiler which is very important. It is rule that we look at it every year."

"This is also a one-in-33 gradient, the steepest of its kind in the world. The whole line from Jamrud Fort to Landi Kotal is a heavy gradient line

and according to rules we must have a banker train."

Mr. Khan leant out of the cab into the high, bright sky above the gorge and pointed to the back of this little train where a 1932 German-built locomotive painted in fading green gallantly pushing from behind.

"According to railway rules," Mr. Khan went on, glancing at the old English pressure gauge, "the banking of the train is most compulsory to stop the train rolling back." It was not the danger of falling backwards down the Khyber Pass that was disturbing, however, but the pressure gauge itself which never moved from 180, even when the locomotive was idling at Shagal Fort station.

Perhaps it was the steam released by the whistle which prompted this curious phenomenon since Mr. Khan was constantly forced to tug the broken piece of wire above the firebox which made the engine walk. Buffaloes, goats, sheep, children and old men had a habit of walking over the track just in front of Number 2511 when she was about to enter a tunnel.

As she moved higher up the mountains, a sharp, cold mountain breeze snapped across the footplate. Mr. Khan was enthusiastic about his work. "Of course I like driving a locomotive," he shouted, "most of us train drivers in Rawalpindi are allowed to work on this track but..."

But Number 2511 plunged into a tunnel which battered the sound of her engine into our eardrums and smothered the crew in a darkness that was lit only by the flaring oil-burning furnace.

At the tunnel's end, the glorious locomotive performed so sharp a corner above so sheer a precipice of rock, hundreds of feet above a spinning river that two drivers and a fireman had to catch the fittings and Mr. Khan was a little too busy to remember what he had been talking about.

There were a few down gradients but Number 2511 and her sister had to hammer their way the 3,000ft up the mountain with little respite. There was, Mr. Khan pointed out later with the bleak logic of an engineer driver, no problem for his engine. She was, after all, an SGS class goods service locomotive: which was baffling but probably true.

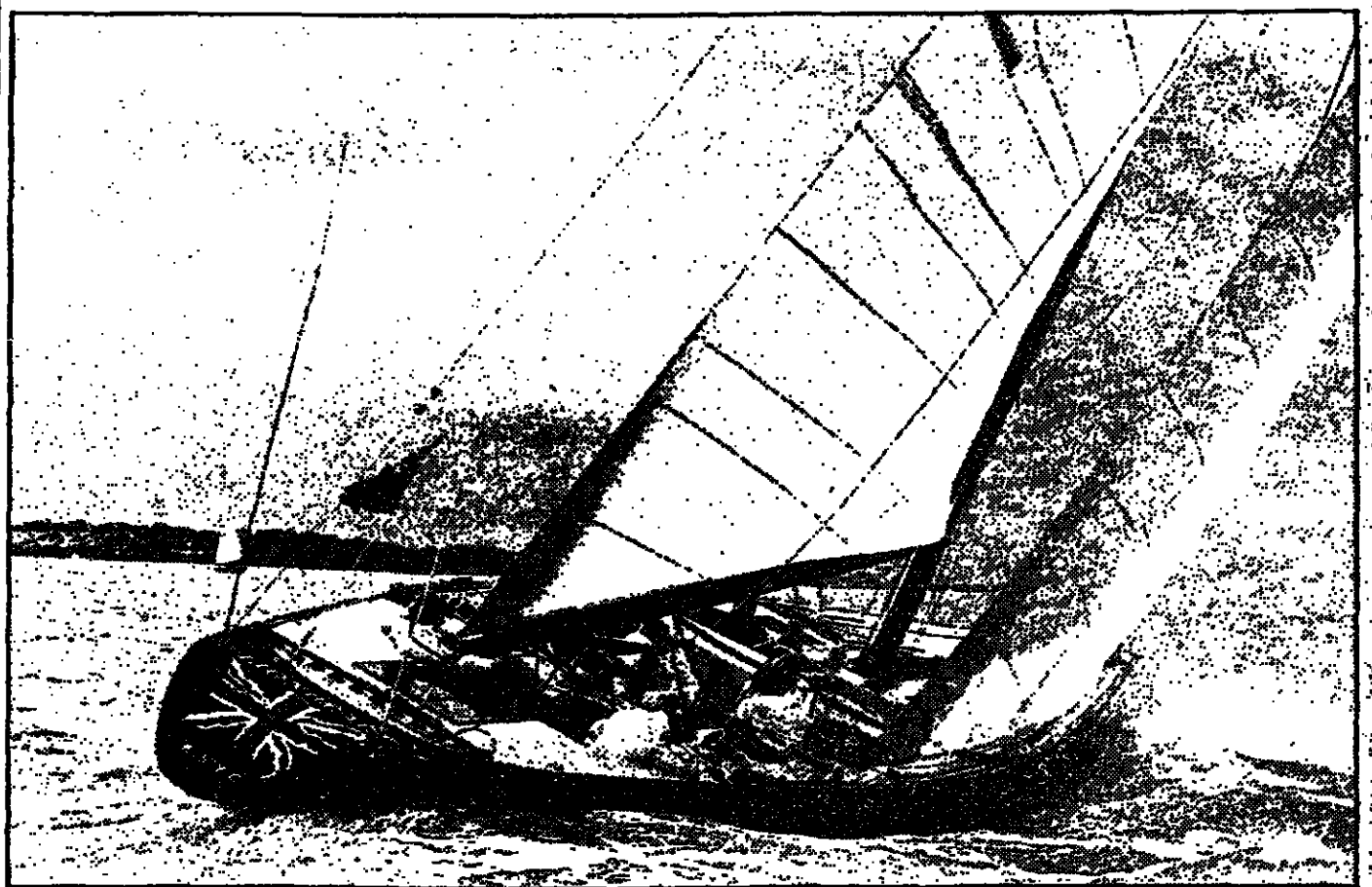
Number 2511 fumed into Landi Kotal three minutes later with the blue mountains of Afghanistan shimmering on the western horizon. She unhooked her two carriages and one truck and shunted about rather aimlessly.

Why did Mr. Khan really enjoy driving this great beast? "It is a duty," he replied, "it is a real duty. The British would have thought so too when Number 2511 was pulling the Dorsetshire, the Cheshires and the Prince of Wales' own regiments up to Landi Kotal. Sic gloria non transit."

A Times Profile

The America's Cup

Can the Yanks be taught a lesson?



Lionheart, Britain's hope for the America's Cup: is she a breakthrough?

This time round the fight for the America's Cup will be the best. Those qualities which characterize remarkable sportsmen—a salping of personal and national pride, a certain need, an ache to settle a score—are here in larger form than they have ever been in the 125-year pursuit of yachting's Ashes.

Years of rivalry make this much more than a simple yachting match, a trial of design, gear, skill, guile and experience. The personalities of the cup's questers have always played a colourful part in the drama. And it is the same this time: steadily growing tension and competitive edge are rooted in the determination of successful businessmen, men used to having their own way and still smarting from defeats in their previous cup attempts. They long to teach those Yanks a lesson.

For their part, the Americans, who have never lost the cup, are determined that no Limey, Aussie, Frenchman or Swede, will get it now.

During August they will watch closely, and perhaps a shade imperiously, as Lionheart (Britain), France III (France), Sverige (Sweden) and Australia (Australia) fight their way through the eliminating races for the privilege of taking on the Americans in the best-of-seven match for the cup itself off Rhode Island in September.

It will be the twenty-fourth challenge for the vulgar, bulbous silver-cowled schooner America won in a race around the Isle of Wight in 1851, leaving a bruise on the British ego which throbs still. If Lionheart wins the preliminary races she will be making the eighteenth British challenge.

Tony Boyden, the industrialist and sportsman who paid for the last British challenger (Sovereign, thrashed 4-0 in 1964) has put £200,000 into Lionheart. He is chairman of the British Industry 1500 Club which is raising £800,000 to go for the cup.

Certainly pride and patriotism play their part, he said. "I was sailing by defeat in 1964. I was a successful man and I had not failed before."

"But the cup is not an obsession. It is a supreme sporting challenge and it excites me: the only major sporting trophy never won by Britain. The money needed for the challenge is not extravagant at all. But it is a challenge to a contribution to fighting the British disease, the sort of pessimism and cynicism that has followed in the train of our decline. Winning the America's Cup would do us good. It would help us to think well of ourselves."

In the pre-spring chill of next month Lionheart will be re-launched after winter lay-up to begin months of work-up and tuning in the Solent. She is the first 12-metre yacht built in Britain since Sovereign. She was built in aluminium by Joyce of Southampton, is 64ft overall and is a glistering porpoise-black.

"My lucky colour," John Oakeley, the skipper, said. Most of the dinghies he sailed in a notable career in national and Olympic racing were black. "But even is unlucky. There are no great ropes or tapes in Lionheart and the crew know they must wear nothing green. We cannot take chances."

No British challenge has been better prepared than this. Tony Boyden said: "The mood in 1964 was not one of depression but of amazement at the distance in technology between our yachting industry and the American. Before 1964 I was not really America's Cup conscious. But I was keen on 12-metre racing, got into the cup game and was badly beaten. I made up my mind that I would not get involved again until I thought we could win. I wanted to be thorough."

Over the years Boyden and friends kept abreast of 12-metre development, particularly in the United States. They cast around for a designer and chose Ian Howitt, a young Hampshire naval architect, commissioning him to do rank and wind-tunnel research at Southampton University. In some quarters there was surprise at the choice of "a young unknown". Howitt, who is 31, resents the suggestion and says quietly, and with proper professional self-respect: "I think that those who know the business were not surprised."

Howitt examined the lines of many 12-metre and made a careful analysis of American boats. He, Boyden and Oakeley watched the last cup series, in 1977, when the American Courageous beat Australia. And he spent an exhausting year working on and perfecting his design. He does not believe that 12-metre design has reached a peak. "We have come up with a quite different underwater shape and we have a very quick boat."

Lionheart has a particularly fine entry and her shape makes her most seaworthy. She does not have the weight-saving sub-



John Oakeley, Ian Howitt and Tony Boyden: fighting the British disease

"The hull, though, is not everything," the designer acknowledges. "The rig has to be just right. And then there is the human factor."

The rig, the mast and sails, have been wind-tunnel tested and remains Lionheart's secret weapon, something her team want to keep hidden from the Americans as long as possible. "It represents a breakthrough," is all that Oakeley will say about it. But it is presumed that the rig will be of the flexible kind pioneered in dinghies in recent years. How well it will work on a 12-metre is a matter of much interest.

As for the human factor, both Boyden and Oakeley recognize that what sharpens both boats and men is long and continuous competitive training. "Without competition has enabled the Americans to produce good boats and good crews year after year. They have had a professional approach," Boyden said. "One of our weaknesses in the 1958 (Sceptre) and 1964 (Sovereign) challenges was our lack of competitive training. Only competitor produced that nervous tension, that edge, out of which you get better sailing performance."

Last summer Lionheart raced in Sweden and off Brighton—and did well. "The Swedish races welded us as a crew," Oakeley said. "It would have taken us 18 months of ordinary working-up to learn what we did in Sweden. After all, we have had to pack in a lot of experience in a short time. We simply did not have much 12-metre experience in this country. Most of us were 12-metre virgins. Before Lionheart I myself had sailed in two or three 12-metre races. Only one of them, I decided, was worth me."

Racing is being organized on the other side of the Atlantic this summer between the British, French, Australian and Swedish boats, before the elimination races; and prizes are being offered for the crews.

Lionheart's squad of 17, from which the race crew of 11 will be drawn, have been doing weight and circuit training during the winter lay-up. But they are by no means the foreboding gorillas of yachting legend. "We are a light crew," Oakeley said, "average age about 31, experienced sailing men, fit and agile. Like good weight lifters we rely on technique rather than brute strength."

There are no paid hands on board. For the pleasure of racing for the cup some crew may have to give up jobs. Others will be able to get unpaid leave or make some other arrangement with employers.

The programme is tough. In March Lionheart will be out every weekend; in April four days a week; in May every day. Then she will be shipped to the United States, and her programme, underlining determination with jaunty humour, says: "July, commence sailing at Newport; August, defeat Australians, French and Swedes; September, beat the Americans; October, bring back the cup."

Oakeley, who is 47, managing director of a sailmaking company, describes himself as a "firm and friendly" skipper. He is not at all aloof and likes to mix with his team. "All I ask is 100 per cent reliability and punctuality."

Until the 1960s the America's Cup was almost exclusively an Anglo-American private war. Wealthy sportsmen spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on the trail of this elusive Grail, and the cup became a sort of barometer of national prestige. In 1970, 1974 and 1977 attempts were made by the French and Australians, and the Swedes had a shot, in 1977. But each time the Australians won the right to challenge.

This year, for the third time, the Australian challenge is backed by a group in which Alan Bond is the leading figure. He migrated from Middlesex to Perth in 1950, aged 13, and became a millionaire through land and property dealing. His challenges, Southern Cross and Australia, were decisively beaten in 1974 and 1977. His desire for revenge is coming nicely to the boil.

Calic feathers have been ruffled thrice in the cup battles of the 1970s. The central and colourful figure in the French series was Baron Marcel Bich, who made his money in ballpoint pens to which,

having dropped the n, he gave his name. The baron entered the cup battles after seeing a film about the cup in the 1960s; and was said to have spent £1m on his first challenge. This was peppered with preposterous rows, emotional scenes and enough farce for the French press to describe the baron as "the eccentric of the waves" and to say that his first attempt was "sunk in a sea of ridicule". Of course, the baron is an elder (66) and probably wiser man; and he longs to win the cup, for himself, for la gloire, for France.

Sweden's yacht, Sverige, partly rebuilt, is backed by £600,000 of Swedish business money, and the attempt is led by Pelle Peterson, who, like John Oakeley, is 47 and a former Olympic competitor. Meanwhile, in American waters, four possible defenders, Enterprise, Courageous, Freedom and Independence, are being readied. In American 12-metre circles there is only one nightmare that jerks men from sleep in the small hours: the scary thought that they could be part of a crew which loses the America's Cup for the first time.

Boyden started in business at 21, taking over a small family company which he sold after 10 years to Spicers for £1,700,000. Since then he has started, or acquired 32 companies, including British Seagull, the outboard engine makers.

Both as businessman and sportsman he has always sought to follow his code of "doing things well" and says "if you sent me to live in the desert in a tent I would try to do it well". He was therefore frustrated by the slow way in which support for Lionheart has been built up. "I developed," he feared that he and his fellow-backers would not be able "to do it well". Last November the fund was still £300,000 short of target, but the belief now is that the money will be raised.

Through the Friends of Lionheart, scheme people can buy small items for the campaign like shackets, a length of rope, even a square foot of mainsail. Boyden is impressed and rather touched that money is coming in, in fivers and tenners, from the public.

"People want a part in a British venture. They want us to do well. I know there are people who are cynical about the whole thing. They think 12-metres and the America's Cup are out of context with the age. But I and many others don't. The races help to develop design and equipment which benefit a much wider circle of people; and the challenge is exciting and good for us."

Boyden is a shy man and rarely talks about himself. He is deeply religious, a Christian Scientist, and says his faith governs everything he does in his life. He enjoys his own company and likes to bury himself in his books. Business keeps him in London much of the time, but he has a Queens Anne house near Dorchester, a virtual ruin when he found it 20 years ago, and which he has lovingly restored. "I'm not so much the owner as a steward looking after a beautiful part of our heritage." It houses his antiques and is open to the public. He is Master of the South Dorset Hunt; and he skis, sails, golfs, and sees no reason why, at 48, he should stop zooming down the Cresta Run occasionally.

For him a number of interests, hopes and emotions coincide in the attempt on the America's Cup. There are the design problems, the thinking, the passion, the belief in doing it all well, comradeship and teamwork.

"But I don't want it thought that I'm too serious about it, or tedious. It is a sporting challenge and I am a sportsman. It is something in common with dashing across the countryside on a crisp winter morning—the thrill of the chase."

Trevor Fishlock

Prisoners of conscience



Chile

By Caroline Moorehead

Sonia López was 19 when her husband Juan was arrested in the autumn of 1978. She came to London last week on behalf of the families of 55 political prisoners held in Santiago jail to describe the conditions under which they are being kept and the tortures to which they are submitted.

Only 30 of them have been sentenced; the others have been awaiting trial for up to five years.

"My husband was arrested by the police one evening together with several of his relations, including a boy. He had known it was coming. His brother Sandro, an anthropologist at Santiago University, had gone underground five months earlier and was known to have organized at least one clandestine group of resisters to the regime."

"A law was passed last year making it a crime not to inform on known political activists, even close relations."

"They were all tortured for information about Sandro. My husband was strapped to a metal frame and had electric shocks sent through him. The veins in his arm were split open and bled from the injections they gave him. They took his blood and bled constantly now from internal injuries."

"The boy was not given electric shocks. He was beaten and shown his mother hanging from the ceiling, while she was told that her son would be tortured unless she talked."

No one talked. They were not in a position to give information, as no one knew where Sandro was.

"My husband has still not been tried. I have been allowed to visit him twice a week, except during a period of 20 days last year when he was held in solitary confinement on bread and water in the dark in a cell one metre by one metre, for having protested that the political prisoners were given no status as such."

"When I go and see him I take him whatever I can: the food inside is often bad, purplish fish, vegetable peels. When I leave I am stripped, harassed, searched."

Since her husband's arrest, Sonia López has not been allowed to work. She lives on what her family can give her and the little money she gets from selling jewelry her husband makes in jail. The Vicaría de la Solidaridad, the human rights organization of the Roman Catholic church in Chile, has managed to get permission for some of the political prisoners to work.

López is not their real name. Sonia fears that, should she be identified, she will not be allowed back to Chile, and that her husband might be singled out for fresh brutality.

She has come, she says, not simply to describe, but to warn all those interested in the fate of Chilean political prisoners that their situation may worsen at any time.

"Last November there were sudden raids on the homes of anyone with any political interests. Two thousand people were arrested; most were released after being harassed and beaten up."

"Then a mutiny broke out among common criminals in another jail and the Ministry of Defence accused the political prisoners of inciting them. We believe repression is going to get worse."

US warns El Salvador rightists against coup

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Feb. 24

The United States, which fears that a right-wing coup in Central America state of El Salvador is imminent, has taken the unusual course of issuing public warning against any such move.

A State Department spokesman told reporters on Friday that the Administration will cut off aid to any new regime in El Salvador which fails to respect human rights and frustrates much-needed reforms in the country.

El Salvador, which has a population of about 4,300,000, is one of the smallest, poorest and most densely populated nations in the Americas.

The spokesman added that the existing Government, which consists of civilians and members of the armed forces, offers the "best chance" of addressing the economic and social

problems which have long plagued the country. The Government, which has the full backing of Washington, took office last autumn.

In a move to reinforce the Administration's deep concern about the situation in El Salvador, a senior State Department official told reporters later that the American Embassy in San Salvador had been in touch with the leaders of the various groups which were thought to be involved in the projected coup.

Politician killed: The latest victim of El Salvador's violence was Señor Mario Zamora Rivera, the Attorney-General, who was killed by unidentified gunmen in his home in San Salvador.

Señor Zamora, a leader of the Christian democratic Party, had been accused by a right-wing organization of being a member of a left-wing extremist group.

Thai opposition musters anti-government votes

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, Feb. 24

Parliamentary opponents of the Thai Government claim they are close to having enough votes to overthrow General Kriangsak Chamanand, the Prime Minister.

A vote on a no-confidence motion is expected during a special session of Parliament opening on Friday.

The five main political parties, after forming an alliance to force General Kriangsak from power, said they had 215 certain votes and promises of at least another 20. They need 264 votes to defeat General Kriangsak, who has been Prime Minister since November, 1977.

An attempt to recapture public confidence, General Kriangsak in a 50-minute broadcast last night promised new measures to stabilise prices and to increase the people's purchasing power after big rises in the price of oil and other fuels.

Khmer Rouge in clashes along border

From Our Correspondent
Bangkok, Feb. 24

Vietnamese soldiers and Khmer Rouge guerrillas have been fighting for three days along a 12-mile stretch of the border between Thailand and Kampuchea border, sources here said today. Fighting went on for more than eight hours on Friday and for about two hours yesterday. Today's fighting was described as sporadic.

The heaviest clashes occurred near the Khmer Rouge strong-hold at Phnom Malai, south of Aranyaprathet.

There is also daily skirmishing between Vietnamese troops and anti-Communist "Free Khmers" on the border north of Aranyaprathet.

Many Vietnamese and troops of the Heng Samrin regime have gathered between six and 10 miles from the Thai border, according to Lieutenant-General Sam Katsap, chief of the Thai information centre.

Three to die for killing children

Bangkok, Feb. 24.—A court in the Central African Republic sentenced three men to death last night for their part in killing 12 children of the deposed Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa.

The three, including a former captain in the Imperial Guard Joseph Mokoa, were found guilty of murdering schoolchildren last year.

10,000 see execution
Peking, Feb. 24.—A man who hacked to death his neighbours and their eight-year-old son with an axe was executed in front of 10,000 people near Swatow, South China,

Aegean air space reopens to all flights

From Mario Modiano
Athens

The Aegean was reopened to all international flights today after a break-through in the Greek-Turkish dispute over air traffic control in the region which lasted nearly six years.

On Friday, Turkey withdrew unilaterally its claim for the control of air traffic over the eastern half of the Aegean Sea, an area of Greek responsibility under international arrangements.

Greece responded yesterday by revoking its civil aviation law of 1974 which declared the Aegean unsafe and banned all flights except its own.

Mr George Rallis, the Greek Foreign Minister, expressed satisfaction over this unexpected development.

The clearing of air corridors over the Aegean for all but Greek domestic flights, had reduced to a minimum air communications between Greece and Turkey, as flights from Athens to Istanbul, for example, in 50 minutes, had to be diverted by way of Bulgaria taking one hour 40 minutes.

Greek and foreign airlines in Athens said today they had not yet had time to consider the resumption of direct flights between the two countries.

Opposition parties in both Greece and Turkey are viewing these sudden developments with some suspicion. In Turkey, the Government has been accused of giving in to Western pressure in exchange for large-scale economic and military aid. In Greece, opposition leaders denounced the Turkish gesture and the Greek response as part of an American ploy to bring about the return of Greece to NATO.

A permanent settlement of the Greek-Turkish dispute over the Aegean air space would certainly allay the mutual suspicions that block agreement on the return of Greece to NATO's integrated military structure.

Mr Trudeau to take over as Premier on March 3

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Liberal Party leader, has said he will be sworn in as Prime Minister on March 3, two weeks after defeating Mr Joe Clark to regain the office he lost nine months ago.

"We have settled on March 3," Mr Trudeau told reporters as he emerged from an hour-long meeting with Mr Edward Schreyer, the Governor-General, at the medical centre where the head of state is recovering from an operation.

The swearing-in ceremony will take place on the same day as the election of the new House of Commons.

Mr Trudeau said he was considering resigning by the end of March, but he doubted that there would be enough time for the necessary preparatory work before then. In that case, he would summon the next session of Parliament just after Easter, which falls on April 6.—UPI.

Results of 1980 Canadian Elections

Party	Lib	PC	NPD	SC	Vacant	Total
Total	146	103	32	0	1	282
Newfoundland	1	2	0	0	0	3
Prince Edward Island	2	2	0	0	0	4
Nova Scotia	5	5	0	0	0	10
New Brunswick	7	3	0	0	0	10
Quebec	73	1	0	0	1	75
Ontario	52	38	5	0	0	95
Manitoba	2	5	7	0	0	14
Saskatchewan	0	21	0	0	0	21
Alberta	0	16	12	0	0	28
British Columbia	0	2	1	0	0	3
Yukon-Northwest	0	2	1	0	0	3

Results of 1979 Canadian Election

Party	Lib	PC	NPD	SC	Vacant	Total
Total	114	136	28	6	0	282
Newfoundland	4	2	1	0	0	7
Prince Edward Island	0	2	1	0	0	3
Nova Scotia	2	6	1	0	0	9
New Brunswick	6	4	0	0	0	10
Quebec	67	2	0	0	0	75
Ontario	32	57	0	0	0	95
Manitoba	2	7	5	0	0	14
Saskatchewan	0	10	4	0	0	14
Alberta	0	21	0	0	0	21
British Columbia	1	18	8	0	0	28
Yukon-Northwest	0	2	1	0	0	3

Key: Lib—Liberal; PC—Progressive Conservative; NPD—New Democratic Party; SC—Social Credit.

THE ARTS

Television

The Dybbuk
BBC 1

Michael Church

If the strength of a chain lies in its weakest link, the spell woven in the BBC version of Solomon Anski's play *The Dybbuk* ought by rights to have broken. That did not must be due in large part to the intrinsically arresting quality of this Russian-Jewish tale of obsessive love and religious superstition.

In a small village Romeo meets Juliet, but she is destined for a wealthier match by her opportunistic father. Romeo rises increasingly desperate to enlist the support of magical powers but he falls and dies of grief. His soul becomes a dybbuk, an evil spirit trapped between heaven and earth, and henceforth possesses his beloved. When all else fails, the matter is taken to the rabbinical court which exposes the father's sin and exorcises the devil, but at the price of the girl's life.

Joan of Arc, *The Crucible* and *Wuthering Heights* are each at times strongly called to mind. The weak link was Juliet herself—Giselle Wolf in the role of Leah, the merchant's daughter. This part is both a gift and a tremendous challenge, demanding as it does a credible transition from sweet serenity to demonic possession. Ms Wolf seems to have been encouraged to do the predictably modern thing, sleepwalking her way through the first half and then, with a little help from Marsha Graham, turning into that raw caricature of feminism, a woman's-group virago, liberated to rant and rave. Her antics were filmed, moreover, in a four-square, theatrical manner. If ever there was an excuse for clever visual effects this should surely have been it.

In almost every other way, however, Jane Howell's direction was superb. From the opening scene, in that exquisitely lifelike landscape of ice, snow and denuded trees, she sensed the presence of something numinous and ecstatic. Ecstasy, unless sanctified by connection with pop or extremist politics, is nowadays something to be explained, and thus explained by Carey Brown, as the young lover, recited the Song of Solomon in the synagogue as though its object were something truly ineffable. For two hours we were in a world peopled by characters straight out of Chagall paintings and medieval icons, a world felt curiously comforting.

A vision of sackcloth and ashes

Without gangsters it is fair to suggest, there would be no production of Philip Martin's *These and Me*, opening at the National Theatre tomorrow, and without *Gangsters*, Martin's two television series, *These and Me*, would be a lot of people saying about the new crime: "What, in Birmingham? No, never."

It has been suggested that *Gangsters* was a "violent fantasy" and that Martin's elaborate structure of villainy that he depicted, he points out that the series began in the balmy days of BBC finance when it was one of two feature films (the other being *Leeds United*) made for television.

"I actually researched—lived in Birmingham and met criminals—so the initial film was based upon what was going on in Birmingham... it was in actual fact a portrait of the city's underworld."

"When the film came on people were still saying, 'What, in Birmingham?' In Birmingham, it just so happened that the news overtook the drama, because there was a £2m heroin heist, the stuff was discovered in Birmingham, and then two days later there were 15 illegal immigrants arrested in the Bristol Channel and, lo and behold, where were they going but Birmingham."

These and Me, which Martin wrote with the few months of relative leisure that *Gangsters* earned him, is less likely to prove immediately accurate. He has set the play 60 years in the future, in a world where the sun has burnt through the earth's ozone layer and reduced Britain's green countryside to a desert waste with few springs and a fierce competition between a totalitarian government and a few anarchic individuals to find and control each source of water.

The drama is not hinged on the science-fiction aspects, but on the struggle between two concepts of power: the individual and the collective. Still, Martin views the catastrophe as possible: "It's not a direct prediction but for all we know it could happen. If you look at the ozone layer, the reports about the ozone layer, they actually don't know. One report comes out and says we're okay. This is immediately superseded by another report that it's not really known, as far as we can tell it is shrinking... The play is really a projection of what could happen on one particular piece of carelessness; i.e. the ozone layer. You could say it's actually what could happen if we're so careless with our freedoms."



Philip Martin... "I'm only joking"

An earlier version of the play was written for the Duke's Playhouse in Lancaster where a year earlier Martin had written another full-length play for the director, John Blackmore. As Lancaster is where he now lives, with his wife and daughter, both plays had a strong local colour. The first one, *Sunbo*, was an intriguing excursion into local history, using the legend of the black slave, Sambo, to show how much of the wealth of Lancaster had come from the slave trade.

Some ten years before the advent of *Gangsters*, Martin had scrapped a promising career as an actor and turned to writing. To viewers of the series that might come as a surprise for such is the force

of the medium that he may well be better known for playing the part of the nightclub owner than for his authorship. There is some irony in the way he ended the series, having chosen to kill his hero with a thoroughness that Arthur Conan Doyle never managed for Sherlock Holmes. Death came disguised as W. C. Fields and it was Martin, the creator, who played the assassin.

The story of Martin's break with acting has the stuff of theatrical apocrypha and the National's programme tells it with unusually near edges. He had formed a company with the director, Mike Leigh, and was writing *These and Me* during their production of *Little Malcolm and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs*.

He learned an eight-page speech overnight only to have it cut in the morning. Acting suddenly lost its glamour and he took a job in Preston as a ballroom manager, returning also to engineering which he had learnt in the six years between leaving school in Liverpool and entering RADA at the age of 21.

He admits the story but tells of his two-year break from the theatre in rather different terms. "It was a pretty bad time because my first marriage was breaking up. I suppose, looking back, half the dissatisfaction with acting was problems with the marriage which I thought would be solved by going back to a stable, steady job. Of course, it didn't. The marriage broke up anyway. So, in the course of throwing out the old and getting new receipts, I began to write."

"The curious thing with this ballroom was that it was next to a cinema and when I got fed up with the ballroom I used to go and watch the cinema. And I was actually watching one movie one time and I thought, 'I'd really like to get back into this and I began to write seriously. About two years after that I was writing full time.'"

Since abandoning *Gangsters* Martin has had to learn to fail to understand why he is no longer "writing hard-edged, gangster, exploitative, commercial stuff. They think I'm a fool not to do it." But he never limited himself to the series and during it he picked up an award from Imperial Tobacco for his 1977 radio play, *Dead Soldiers*, as best original drama of the year.

While he has given up composing for the bureaucrats of Radio 3, preferring not to waste the time that it now takes him to get a radio play accepted, his schedule is crowded with other writing.

During Michael Rudman's rehearsals of *These and Me* he has had to commute to Birmingham to work on his new play for BBC 2, *The Unborn*, and he is writing a new stage play for John Blackmore, who is now running the Tyneside Theatre Company in Newcastle. *The Unborn* uses the technique of horror films to tell the story of a father who has visions that his unborn son is the Anti-Christ. On the day I spoke to Martin at the National he was on his way to Birmingham to present a problem play, *These and Me*, which he has written with his wife, which I'm only joking. If it has the power of his other writing, one can only hope they believe him.

Ned Chaillet

Catchpenny Twist
King's Head

Ned Chaillet

When it rains, you are likely to get water dripping from the ceiling at the King's Head Theatre Club, and even when the doors have just opened it requires considerable dexterity to work your way to a seat at a table, so when the lights are on, it is a relief to find a popular success. It has the intimacy of a streambed and the friendliness of a bistro combined. Against the odds of its subject matter, and against the odds of a second success in the same place, Stewart Parker's 1977 follow-up to his King's Head hit, *Spooking*, looks set to keep the King's Head theatre crowded throughout its run. Under the circumstances, dinner is advised since it will

Prague SO/Belohavek
Festival Hall

Joan Chissell

The Prague Symphony Orchestra, now revisiting these shores after a gap of seven years, was founded in 1864 which makes it a youngster in comparison with the better known Czech Philharmonic whose first concert was conducted by Dvorak soon after his return from the New World. However, it was Dvorak's "New World" symphony that allowed these Prague musicians their best chance to shine at the Festival Hall on Saturday night.

In fact, for whom a couple of splendidly spirited national dances (titles were not announced) encores.

The conductor, Jiri Belohavek, studied with Celibidache, which helps to account for the orchestra's good discipline. The strings, based on eight

get you into the theatre before the rush.

Catchpenny Twist, which has been seen in various versions in Dublin and the United States and on television, has enough echoes of Spooking's mordant wit to prove its family connections. It sprawls, and the matchbox stage has to settle for square inches of suggestion instead of realism to handle the shifts from a classroom in Northern Ireland to various flats, bedsits, bars, and a bookshop in Belfast, Dublin and London. In the hectic movement, Robert Gillespie's production is wise to focus on plotlines and performances.

Mr Parker begins with a script by a teacher in a classroom that sends three teachers in search of new employment when they are interrupted by the headmaster. There is a conscious debt, then, to the Broadway images of Tin Pan

double basses, were pleasantly mellow throughout. Of the woodwind, the attractively reedy oboes and cor Anglais caught the ear more often than the insufficiently radiant flutes or slightly anonymous clarinets. The horns also emerged modestly in comparison with their splendidly forthright louder brass colleagues. In sum, an able and responsive enough team to give Mr Belohavek everything necessary for his spirited, straightforward reading of the score. He found nice fluid phrasing for the slow movement, but perhaps missed some of the Scherzo's charm.

Though there was no sample of Czechoslovakian contemporary music, the orchestra was at least brave enough to start with Janacek's *Cunning Little Vixen* suite. Drawn from the opera's first act, this was made not by the composer but the conductor, Vladislav Jizich and Vladav Smetacek, who deserve

our thanks for the reincarnation. The first of its two movements is largely atmospheric, with the snail's pace eventually emerging as its main thematic delight, whereas the second (including the vixen's escape) is more dramatic, with a gloriously effulgent surge of sound to mark the warmth of sunrise.

This is a most interestingly evocative, with a welcome avoidance of super-gloss in keeping with Janacek's world of nature. Sibelius's Violin Concerto introduced the young Russian violinist Boris Monoszon to the Festival Hall. Though a fluent lyricist, he not only lacked the richness and variety of tone needed for this romantic work but also the temperament. Apart from the fact that he was often engulfed by the orchestra at moments of climax, many a phrase needing a speaking eloquence (like that pleading rising action motif to the Adagio) emerged unmoored.

epilepsy in her new husband and he points out that women in general are ridiculous, looking like a half-developed man when naked. Of course they haemorrhage 13 times a year. It is not until he is alone with Tessa that he reveals himself as her husband, and begins to open her wounds and pour salt on the fresh injuries of her hidden husband. It is a war fought with words, though full of semi-mystical, incoherent about energy and power flowing from one person to another, and Mr Macready's production uses the words for their own effect, limiting the movement as Miss Sears, Philip Bowen and Malcolm Rennie make speech into a weapon that actually kills.

This review is reprinted from Friday's later editions.

The Magic Flute
Cambridge University

William Mann

Cambridge University can claim a special interest in Mozart's last opera: it was there, in December 1911, that Edward Dent and Clive Carey mounted a production of *The Magic Flute* in Dent's English version, which restored it to the British repertoire, banishing its Victorian connotations as *Il flauto magico*, a grand display of undramatic singing, with orchestral accompaniment recitatives. The university's Opera Society, founded some years after Dent retired from the professorship of music, decided this term to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of that already historic production, somewhat early but not less worthwhile for the time. *The Magic Flute* is, in any case, ideal material for production in the theatre of the music faculty's new building. The sunken orchestra pit is of the right size for Mozart's precise instrumental force. The temple stage was left without false proscenium, very simply decorated by Peter Fekete, its access from the auditorium to either side effectively used by Malcolm Hunter's sensible, unaffected production.

Tamino entered from behind us, running down the gangway

to escape from the poisonous serpent, represented by a strong red light (we were expected to have read the synopsis of the action), and he was followed by a recalcitrant set of pan-pipes, introduced himself from the side circle. There were no visible temples: their names were flashed upon the ground, like three trees. Papageno had to suspend his anguished note from his own raised hand (if we did not already know he would be saved, somebody in the audience would surely cry out when he found to their relief that he was indeed, an abstract production, yet with none of the killjoy austerity which that epithet may imply, because he had identified each character, artist, and was relishing each scene for its serious or comical worth.

They were not always the familiar characterizations. Simon Davies's Papageno, tall yet hunched, dressed in red, suggested an affable with some amiable snake rather than any bird. His opposite number, Monostatos, was seen, in Colin Stewart's person, as handsomely sun-tanned and affable, a half-hearted villain and by no stretch of imagination a nursery goliath. Sarastro's priests in their black cassocks might have been Cambridge choral scholars in chapel, but for their unshod feet. The High Priest and his

acolyte, the so-miscalled "Speaker" wore saudy surplices, and Mark Wildman's Sarastro, alone dignified with shoes, exercised authority quietly, like a very unassuming nonconformist minister, though he sang his music nobly enough, and even took the last line of the "pasce" (of course, Dent's translation was sung, with a little revision in the first act notably) down to the unauthentic bottom E.

Christine Barker's secure top notes and firm attack were well applied to the Queen of Night's music. Julie Hunter was the appealing, musical Pamina, her soprano not yet perfectly free from rawness, nicely matched with Peter Brander, a Tamino with a strong voice, though his words were sometimes distorted for easier vocalization. Andrew Wise conducted attentively and sympathetically: was I wrong in expecting a higher standard of orchestral playing from present-day Cambridge? The small, expert choral force was a surprise, but apt for this production and this music. I missed the menagerie in Tamino's aria with solo flute (female dancers had the excellent, wretched substitute), but for the most part warmed to the intelligence and humanity of the presentation, close to Dent's thinking about *The Magic Flute*.

or the overture to Borodin's *Prince Igor*, as it used to be called in Lancashire, is in fine fettle, a largely young orchestra, still largely led by Martin Milner, whose long bow in cantabile music are an eloquent reproach to other string departments, and who is also a true leader when the music's tempestuous rises, and fur has to fly in the scherzo of the Shostakovich.

The corporate sonority in Borodin was ample, fiery, but without self-indulgence, the melodies exceptionally forthright, and handsomely individualized, the Slavic vitality evoked and enjoyed, not dragged in any oppressive way. Once or twice some line of harmony, some less audible than it deserved; for the most part, it was a brave performance which, more than

severe lines are softened into essentially vocal melodies, which David Atherton moulded carefully in the slow movements, and all is tempered by tonal subtleties.

Skillful programming, or mere coincidence, provided another turn from 1958, Brimley's *Wagner*, on 60-stringed instruments. Robert Tear's reading was as fresh and spontaneous as the work for the first time. He captured immediately the atmosphere of each poem, so subtly disilluminated of text, the most transparent of textures, he moved with a natural fluency from sheer simplicity in Coleridge's *Wandering of Min* to vivid representation in Midgton's *Midnight Menagerie*, to a final emotional intensity in

Tantalizing study that shocked Victorian England

Froude's Life of Carlyle

Abridged and edited by John Clubbe
(Murray, £17.50)

There are certain books that one could go on writing and talking about for days, whether read in their own time or years following. One of these is the biography of Thomas Carlyle, the great Victorian writer, by John Froude. The book is a masterpiece of scholarship and insight, and it is a pity that it is so little read.

Professor Clubbe is one of the many editors writing for the Penguin Classics series. He has abridged and edited the original text to just under half of its length by a judicious cutting of letters included by Froude, most of which have been shown to be textually inaccurate. We now have a dramatic narrative of some 563 large pages, prefaced by a superb essay from Professor Clubbe about Froude and the personal dilemma in which he found himself.

This was a book that shocked Victorian England, because the great man, Carlyle, was shown as an unbalanced, deeply conscious of psychological flaws and incapacities, whom Froude viewed as a

"tragic" character, one "with a secret", who, when bereft of Jane, spent the remaining 20 years of his life metaphorically bearing his breast, riddled with guilt. Froude, his junior by 20 years, was Carlyle's literary executor, and into his hands Carlyle placed his reminiscences and Jane's letters, and into his ears he poured out his grief, remorse and bitterness. The later two exaggerated simply because of his loss of Jane. Froude had known the Carlyles since 1849, coming first to them as one of Carlyle's most fervent admirers. The intimate to their household since 1861, he was torn between awe and worship of Carlyle and fascination with Jane. Carlyle, although stating that he wished no biography of himself (odd in one who pioneered a new type of biography), gave Froude to understand that he wished him to write his life, and when Carlyle died, aged 85, in 1881, Froude was already at work.

Revelations which astonished the intimate to their household since 1861, he was torn between awe and worship of Carlyle and fascination with Jane. Carlyle, although stating that he wished no biography of himself (odd in one who pioneered a new type of biography), gave Froude to understand that he wished him to write his life, and when Carlyle died, aged 85, in 1881, Froude was already at work.

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Carlyle... a "tragic" character

whole business of Froude versus the Carlyle marriage would merit a book in itself; that it was the torment of Froude's final years is well documented, particularly in the posthumously published *My Relations with Carlyle*. Though Froude got a number of things wrong and muddled the waters, it does not detract from the virility of his biography which, unfortunately, has inspired many latterday biographers to follow slavishly

in his errors as the Duke-Edinburgh scholarship is fast proving. Froude's *Life of Carlyle* is compulsively readable: his prose is precise, clear, straightforward; his chapters short. He wastes little time in showing his hand in prejudice which creates a one-sided view of the marriage and the period which more or less covers a whole century. He emerges as a brilliant prosecuting counsel,

building up his case against Carlyle as husband as soon as he can, while simultaneously illuminating his genius as an artist and his power as a social prophet, although he considers Carlyle too radical. He establishes the very telling parallel of Carlyle's slavish devotion to his mother and Jane's equal devotion to her mother, Harriet Carlyle and Jane are buried next to the loved parent, separated from each other. He is grossly unfair, inaccurate, about Jane having to endure poverty and hardship for 15 years, until her marriage, now seen in clearer perspective. He batters his hero when this hero becomes fascinated by Harriet Ashburton, viewing this as a shocking time against Jane, who was certainly madly jealous, although wickedly witty in her letters about her Ladyship. He fails to understand Jane's ill-health, ascribes this entirely to Carlyle, himself a hypochondriac. His most instinctively true clue to the marriage is a sound one: "his was the soft heart, and hers the stern one." He is splendid about Carlyle's work, although he considers him something of an iconoclast: detailed about his work methods, his blocks, his periods of demented application, his perpetual despair about work on hand which co-existed with his near religious faith in his genius and worth.

Froude remarks that Carlyle wrote his biography as though it were fiction, possibly due to Froude's initial intention to become a novelist. Jane wrote her letters as fiction, having given up the idea of writing novels. Froude himself creates in this scintillating masterpiece, a Shakespearean fiction, seeing his role, if I may be fanciful, as that of Fortinbras uttering valedictions when all are slain.

Kay Dick

Halls/Loughran
Festival Hall

William Mann

It was good to hear the Halls Orchestra in London on Friday, and in a Russian programme that could exercise any orchestra's virtuosity, yet seemed congenial, indeed appropriate, as the paths down which James Loughran has been leading his Manchester forces during recent years.

Last summer, at the Edinburgh Festival, I feared he had taken them some steps too far away from the old familiar, Barbirolli sound which, in any case, he must have wanted to replace with his own orchestral second symphony, a Barbirolli favourite. No such extreme measures were required by Shostakovich's tenth symphony, that was in Elgar's

severe lines are softened into essentially vocal melodies, which David Atherton moulded carefully in the slow movements, and all is tempered by tonal subtleties.

Skillful programming, or mere coincidence, provided another turn from 1958, Brimley's *Wagner*, on 60-stringed instruments. Robert Tear's reading was as fresh and spontaneous as the work for the first time. He captured immediately the atmosphere of each poem, so subtly disilluminated of text, the most transparent of textures, he moved with a natural fluency from sheer simplicity in Coleridge's *Wandering of Min* to vivid representation in Midgton's *Midnight Menagerie*, to a final emotional intensity in

Shostakovich's sonnet. The ECO, wind, brass and string soloists responded both expressively and easily to the demands of their parts.

By including Beethoven's first symphony, David Atherton doubtless hoped to show what new light diminished orchestral forces could throw on a work, completed in the last year of the eighteenth century. In the event, the light was all too glaring conspiring with the hall's unsympathetic acoustics to show the slightest mistuning of an inner part, or lateness of an entry.

The andante was charming and elegant, but lightweight: the string tone generally lacked body here, despite the more dramatic moments being met with exaggerated sforzando. There was, nevertheless, much to admire.

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Mam'zelle Angot
Covent GardenSpringplank
Riverside

The Royal Ballet chose all French music for Saturday's new programme at Covent Garden. The greatest pleasure was hearing again the music from *Mam'zelle Angot*, the first time since its revival of *Mam'zelle Angot*. First came Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major, dryly though skilfully played by Philip Gammon, for Macdonald's skiffle band. Then came the more Spangly's bizarre designs, supposedly from the thirties, although some look a decade earlier.

Wayne Eagling and Julian Hosking, dressed as band-leaders, lead the men in some energetic salutations. Merle Park and Jennifer Penney, aviators who have dropped in for a swim, are manipulated like dolls (all the women in this ballet are puppets) through

some difficult but occasionally beautiful adagios. The closing of a door at the end is meant to give it all meaning; and of a lost decade.

Next, Glen Tetley's ballet to Poulenc's *Voluntaries*, another concerto: somewhat hysterical music, think what Anthony Turner coped magnificently with the organ soloist, Alfreda Thorogood and David Walt danced the leads: she has the most beautiful and expressive arms in the company, and it was his best, emotionally and technically, when inspired by his sure support and dramatic presence.

Masine's original version of *Mam'zelle Angot* in New York was a flop; he reworked it for Covent Garden in 1947 with new designs by Derain and an amended score, orchestrated by Gordon Jacob. Ebulliently danced, it was popular for years, but then faded away: an audience unused to this kind of frothy character ballet may now take it to again.

Its weakness is that each of the three scenes is less interesting in plot and choreography,

than the one before. Luckily the music continues strong all through, and was joyously played under Ashley Lawrence, but to make the ballet work, the dancers must establish their characterizations quickly and keep them up through sheer personality.

Wayne Sleep, as the barber hero, has no lack of personality but it is wildly misdirected here: all cockiness and no sentiment, hamming like mad and, surprisingly, missing the brilliance as well as the subtlety of early casts. However, Stephen Jefferies is splendidly sardonic as the caricature, Lesley Collier's tough little market heroine has plenty of spirit, and Jennifer Penney is delightfully daffy as the aristocratic ingenue.

The revival is dedicated to Masine's memory, following his death last year. How odd that the programme cannot decide how to spell his name: I counted three different ways. The last visiting company at Riverside Studios for the Dance Umbrella series is Springplank, the apprentice group started

three years ago by Netherlands Dance Theatre. It provides experience for young dancers and opportunities for new choreography, to such good effect that Nils Christie's *Quarter* for them to Shostakovich's Eighth was a runaway winner of an international competition in Cologne last July.

Christie seems to need a strong score to bring out his ability; his *Metaphors*, which opened Friday's programme, is pleasant but does not build to a real climax any more than it does its music, Gordon Jacob's *Divertimento* for harmonica and string quartet. However, it did introduce a team of excellent young dancers, lively and able.

They were seen at their best in extracts from two ballets by Jiri Kylian, who directs the parent company. Two duets from *Blue Skin* revealed highly ingenious double-work, smoothly done, but left little impression of what their original context may have been. The extracts from *Dream Dances*, to Berio's

Folk Songs, made me impatient to see the whole ballet. The five numbers given were full of fun and freshness.

Completing the programme was a work made for Springplank only last month by Christopher Bruce, *Interactions*. I could not see much justification for the title: the ballet was full of energetic movement but little interaction. The dances seemed like an anthology of Bruce's favourite steps from earlier works, but their arrangement stretched the dancers' ability and they rose to the demands gratefully. *Interactions* was accompanied by electronic doodles arranged by Gary Carpenter and would surely have looked better either in silence or set to real music.

Dance Umbrella now moves to Whitechapel Art Gallery. The Place (and jointly with Camden Festival) the Shaw Theatre. A pity it could not have given this attractive group a longer showing.

John Percival

Nicholas Ashford on an election in which everybody has been pointing their finger at everyone else and where the real issues have been largely ignored

Rhodesia: who can cry 'foul' the loudest?

All in all it has been a dismal election campaign. The promises contained in the various party election manifestos that a new fair, non-racial Zimbabwe would rise from the ashes of the old, white-dominated Rhodesia seem almost to have been forgotten. Instead party leaders seem to have been concerned on who can cry "foul" the loudest.

There has been one overriding issue during this election campaign, and that has been the question of "intimidation." Bishop Abel Muzorewa's UANC has pointed its finger at Mr Robert Mugabe's ZANU (PF), accusing it of maintaining a network of unarmoured guerrillas and "mujibas" (young assistants) in the tribal trust lands (TTLs) which has prevented other parties from campaigning in those areas. Mr Mugabe has pointed his finger right back at Bishop Muzorewa, alleging that "UANC mujibas" have been forcing people at gunpoint to support the UANC. Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front, has complained (less stridently than the others) that his party has come under pressure both from its former ally in the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance and from the auxiliaries.

For their part Rhodesian's temporary British administrators—who are without their own preferences—have laid most of the blame at Mr Mugabe's door. "You have a situation here where eight black parties are trying to carry out a political campaign and he is conducting a para-military exercise," said one British adviser.

A degree of intimidation was inevitable given Rhodesia's recent history of conflict and the size of the prize which is at stake in this election. In fact the level of violence in much of the country has remained remarkably low. Despite the publicity given to bomb attacks on Salisbury churches and against Mr Mugabe there have been relatively few acts of violence against political leaders—which is perhaps surprising bearing in mind that these leaders were fighting each other just a couple of months ago.

Taken as a whole the intimidation appears to have been psychological rather than physical. On the ZANU (PF) side this has involved propagating the insidious message that the war will continue unless Mr Mugabe wins. This is a compelling threat for people who are desperate for peace.

As for the UANC, the party has been assisted by the auxiliaries—men with guns, supposedly apolitical members of the security forces, who have often campaigned openly for the UANC. Then there have been "friends" who have distributed tens of thousands of official-looking pamphlets warning people of the dangers of



Voter and campaigner: woman at ZANU rally and Bishop Abel Muzorewa speaking on behalf of his UANC party.

"Socialism Marxism" compared with "true democracy." The party has also benefited from the fact that the country's administrative structure is, if not actually pro-UANC, certainly anti-ZANU (PF).

It is perhaps significant that the cries of "foul" have come largely from the political leaders themselves and not from the electorate. It is as though they realize they are not going to win as many votes as they boasted they would, and are preparing their excuses in advance.

Whether the coming election can be described as being "free and fair", and will be accepted as such by the international community, is another matter.

If measured by the yardstick of a western European election, it can be considered to be neither free nor fair. But taken in an African context, and particularly the circumstances existing in Rhodesia at the moment, it is probably to say that the result will reasonably

reflect the wishes of the majority of the black population.

But will it stop the war? That is what black Rhodesians most want of all. The answer will lie not so much with the freeness or fairness of the election but with the arithmetic of the result. This cannot be predicted with any accuracy at this stage but it is widely expected that no party will win an overall majority. This means the first government of Zimbabwe will be a coalition.

With two days to go before polling starts it is still expected that ZANU (PF) will win the largest number of the 80 black seats in the new parliament.

However there are signs that support for the party, which reached its peak during the week following Mr Mugabe's triumphal return to Rhodesia, has not grown significantly since then. In fact Mr Mugabe's failure to attend a rally in Bulawayo for "security reasons" may have cost him a seat in Marabedand and per-

haps in the midland province as well. Similarly there are signs that some voters may be reacting against the party's threats to carry on fighting unless it wins.

By contrast Bishop Muzorewa seems to have turned the tide which at one stage was running strongly against him. He has achieved this partly by carrying out an extensive election campaign which has taken him to all corners of the country to address meetings both big and small. (Mr Mugabe has been almost arrogant in his avoidance of the hustings, often preferring to talk to the press rather than the people.) Whether his efforts can haul the UANC into second place remains to be seen.

Mr Nkomo has also not only been active, but alone among the main political leaders has shown some qualities of statesmanship. He has refrained from attacking his rivals in public, and has instead pressed home the message of national unity and reconciliation. This seems

to be winning him considerable support among the country's Shona-speaking majority.

Mr Nkomo is likely to play the key pivotal role in the coalition-making that will take place after the results are known on March 4, and he has already held wide-ranging talks with those parties that are expected to be represented in the new parliament. If Mr Mugabe wins substantially less than 40 seats Mr Nkomo may well try to put together a coalition with the UANC and other black parties in which he would be prime minister. A coalition would almost certainly have the support of the whites.

However if Mr Mugabe wins in excess of 40 seats Mr Nkomo may feel he has no option but to revive the former Patriotic Front alliance, but this time as junior partner to Mr Mugabe. This is clearly what Mr Mugabe hopes will happen, and probably a large number of black voters as well who believe such a coalition would represent Ndebele as well as Shona inter-

ests. However it would be opposed by the whites who would either pack their bags and leave or possibly be tempted (in partnership with excluded black parties) to resist it by force.

Any coalition is bound to be an uneasy one, made doubly so by the fact there are still three well-armed and undefeated armies in the country—Mr Nkomo's ZUPA, Mr Mugabe's ZANLA and the Rhodesian SDF forces. What to do with these armies will be the crucial problem during the immediate aftermath of the election.

So far virtually nothing has been done to bring the three armies together, although it is likely that some symbolic attempt at integration may be made before the British leave. While the guerrillas and the security forces are to blame for this lack of action, the suspicious developed during years of fighting tending to overshadow any desire for assimilation. The fact that the three armies have refrained from fighting each other during the ceasefire has been largely due to the presence of the Commonwealth monitoring force which has acted as a vital psychological buffer between the rival forces.

But what happens when the monitoring force pulls out? That will be the most dangerous moment of the whole exercise. There are fears that ZANLA will refuse to accept any result that does not leave Mr Mugabe in power. This means the security forces, who are already massively deployed around the country, could once again be ordered to turn their guns on the old enemy.

But equally there are fears that Bishop Muzorewa and the whites will not accept the formation of a government from which they are excluded. The power of the security forces is still formidable and it would be hard for any black leader to rule the country effectively with them in opposition.

British officials in Salisbury have privately been saying that there is a 50-50 chance of civil war after the country becomes independent. This is a depressing forecast, particularly in view of South Africa's warnings about the possibility of a civil war. That would almost certainly lead to the internationalization of the conflict, which would make the past seven years of war seem relatively mild.

But perhaps this is all being unduly pessimistic. The prospect of a renewed war may prove to be a sufficient incentive for the country's black leaders to shelve past rivalries and work together to establish the generally free and democratic Zimbabwe they promise in their manifestos. One must hope so, because the people and the country have suffered enough.

Eric Heffer

The Friedman plan: ready for the bin?

One thing is certain, the Government is in a most unhappy state. To put it mildly, Tory backbenchers are restless, and groups of "dissidents" are springing up all over the place. As one young, highly intelligent Tory backbench MP recently said to me: "The trouble is Professor Milton Friedman has taken over No 10, and it's a national disaster."

The fight between the "progressive" and "reactionary" wings in the Conservative Party is without doubt coming to the boil. The first public disclaimer to be expressed was contained in a lecture by Sir Keith Joseph, the Cambridge Union which in effect totally repudiated the non-interventionist policies of Sir Keith Joseph. The second was more specific, in an unsigned article in *The Observer*. Not since Professor Friedman's articles signed by "A Conservative" in *The Spectator* have there been such forthright and open personal attacks on the Tory Party leader.

What I found most apt about *The Observer* article was the description of Tory Government policy as "A Level Economics". It is a charge that can equally be laid at the feet of Professor Friedman, whose influence on Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph has been so powerful. The Friedman economic concepts are like those of Sir Keith Joseph—simplistic nonsense.

In the first programme of the BBC series, *The Power of the Market*, it is astonishing to see Professor Friedman walking around Hongkong with the commentator in the background saying such things as: "The power of the free market has enabled the industrious people of Hongkong to transform what was once a remote island into one of the most thriving and successful places in Asia. Aside from its harbour, the only other important resource of Hongkong is people—over four and a half million of them."

It is Professor Friedman's contention that Hongkong, like America a century ago, is a haven for people who seek freedom in which to develop their abilities. He is obsessed with the economic "success" of Far Eastern countries, and is reported as having said: "Look at Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia—all countries with the fastest growing economies in the world, all countries whose economies place a far greater reliance on market forces than any government controls."

That all of them are either in special circumstances, poor underdeveloped countries, and have been helped through government intervention by the western powers.

Hongkong, however, underlines the essence of the Friedman idea, that government interference, in his view, has in the past been too great, with the amazing assertion that even the 1929 great crash was caused by it. He further argues that each subsequent depression also has government interference as its cause.

Professor Friedman's concepts are bolstered by a passionate belief in what he calls "freedom" which leads him to a position of hostility to such things as the regulation of employment, in the film it is said of the Hongkong workers that they "are free to work what hours they choose, free to move to other jobs if they wish. The market gives them that freedom."

Such freedom existed in Britain during the Victorian era. The market forces of the time, there was no National Health Service, no welfare state, no unemployment and sickness benefits, and there was no poverty. The truth is that the working people of

Britain have only really got individual and collective freedom because of the interference of the state.

Legislation introduced by Liberal, Labour and subsequently Conservative governments has given them rights which they never ever had and a dignity and decency which they had never known before. It is not a type of Victorian charity that the poor want, or live in poverty, but the right to stand on one's feet rather than crawl on one's knees.

It is often said that the Victorian era was the era of Britain's greatness, the period of Britain's strength, and our present Conservative leaders tend to look back on this time with a nostalgia bordering on the romantic. It is, however, only since governments began to interfere in economic and social affairs that the people's lives have been transformed.

Despite all the problems, the overwhelming mass of the people live at a level undreamed of at the turn of the century, and that has come about not because of the free market, but because of the growth of the trade unions and legislation brought in by successive governments.

Despite his academic qualifications and Nobel Prize, Professor Friedman is, like Mrs Thatcher, a very simple-minded man. He is up to "A" levels in his economic thinking. His theories are so simplistic that one could be forgiven for believing that he looks upon the people as having a mental age of more than 15 or 16. In a classroom session in the film, he rightly draws attention to the fact that a pencil is the product of co-operative labour and says it can only really be produced by the operation of the free market. It is so essential, not only to promote productive efficiency, but even more to foster harmony and peace amongst the peoples of the world.

It is such a simple notion that Professor Friedman's whole point. It is precisely because no one product can be made by one person, that co-operative effort and ownership is required. This was the message of that Mr Harold Macmillan preached in his book, *The Middle Way*. It was the theme of Maynard Keynes' economics, it is in reality the only way to survival.

Professor Friedman's type of thinking has been echoed by Sir Keith Joseph, who for a number of years has been pressing this case, even going so far as to claim that Conservative policies pursued by Tory governments since the war have been pale carbon copies of those developed by Labour governments.

The nice easy solution for Sir Keith Joseph, as well as for Professor Friedman, is for governments to withdraw from economic affairs, let market forces rip and "hey presto" it will be a free market in a relatively short space of time.

Alas, after less than one year in office, the theory is going badly wrong for the Tories. Inflation is not coming down, but going up. Unemployment is rising with two million unemployed by the end of the year. The balance of payments is getting worse and high interest rates are not having the desired effect which the Treasury had hoped for.

In my view, therefore, it will not be long before either the Government changes course drastically or cracks wide open.

At that stage, Professor Friedman's ideas will be put where they belong, at the bottom of the waste bin, or perhaps more generously, exhibited as old-fashioned curiosities.

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Strikes: the new battleground for workers' minds

Cabinet ministers claim to detect the emergence of a "new mood" among workers opposed to going on strike in support of the political and industrial objectives of their union leaders. Are they right, or is it a false dawn?

On the surface, the recent evidence is overwhelmingly in their favour. Look at the shattering rebuff delivered on Saturday to left wing leaders of the south Wales miners by their members, and the contempt shown by British Leyland car workers for the engineering union's halfhearted call for a strike to reinstate "Red Nobbs", the sacked communist shop steward.

The message is apparently clear. Faced with the very real threat of unemployment, coal miners and motor industry workers are suspicious of the militant response of industrial union. Spurred on, no doubt, by a well-publicized argument of the employers that striking will only hasten and increase the toll of redundancies, they are fighting shy of deploying the ultimate strike weapon.

In taking this view, they must also be influenced by the withering experience of state

industry steel workers who have been out on the stones for nearly two months with no dispute benefit—and with no end in sight to their increasingly bitter struggle.

The Cabinet has not budged one iota from its insistence that public funding is only available to run down the industry's numbers, not increase the pay of an unnecessarily large work force.

So a political strike against this Government designed to change its industrial policies is a forbidding prospect. That is why the TUC is very reluctant to enter into an all-out confrontation. The clash has come too early in the life of Mrs Thatcher's administration, the battle is not of the general council's choosing, and, in any case, such a conflict offends the traditional orthodoxy of the trade union hier-

archy. The fiasco in the South Wales coalfield will merely strengthen the cautious elements in the TUC leadership.

What, then, is the explanation for the militancy of the latter and gas workers? Their actions contradict the theory that a new sense of realism is gaining ground. By rejecting the advice of their leaders to accept pay rises ranging up to 19 per cent, they forced up the price of a settlement in these two key utilities, and have almost certainly driven up the price of wage deals elsewhere in the public sector.

And it must be recalled that while the miners have spurned the political lead of their coalfield officials, they were evenly divided in December on a strike call from the NUM executive over a 20 per cent pay offer. More than that, while

Longbridge workers decisively snubbed the idea of a shut-down over their dismissed convenor, the BL workforce as a whole has ignored the warnings of Sir Michael Edwards and followed the advice of the union in a 6 to 4 vote against the company's "victory".

The tentative conclusion must be that workers are taking a leaf out of Lord Denning's book, and applying their own test of "reasonableness" when their leaders threaten a dispute. If their own living standards are at stake, they are willing to gamble on the outcome of industrial action. But they balk at being asked to hazard income and jobs in pursuit of more nebulous objectives—whether it be an attempt to force changes in government policy, or the defence of the shop steward system.

Furthermore, the willingness of workers to follow their leaders on the issue of pay (as the engineering strikes of last autumn demonstrated) extends even to distant elements of collective bargaining such as minimum rates from which only a minority stand to make substantial gains. Shop floor pressure is still running very strongly, but it is running in the natural channels of wages and conditions rather than in the political directions preferred by some union leaders.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary for Industry, is therefore right to hedge his bets on the prospect of a fundamental change of climate in industry. Three days ago, he expressed the hope that "there is a hint of a beginning of a change", adding, "but it is only limited at this stage".

A NOT SO PLACID DIARY

New York
The time comes when every growing child starts asking those embarrassing, unanswerable questions. It came one night last week while I was sprawled on the sofa, watching television with my 10-year-old son in our New York apartment.

We had been looking at a young man and woman, both amazingly small even allowing for the reducing effect of our 15-inch screen, and both dressed in what I took to be stylized version of Ukrainian peasant costume, cavorting prettily on ice.

"Dad," he asked suddenly, "What's an ordinal?"

I took a deep breath and stretched myself out to my full length on the sofa.

"My son," I told him with brutal honesty, "I have not the slightest idea."

We were one of millions of families in America in the grip of what it would be misleading to term Lake Placid fever. Lake Placid torpor would describe it better. The British television schedules indicate that you, too, have been subjected to your share of the winter Olympics, but on nothing like the scale we have here.

beyond saying that the scoring system was incredibly complicated, which it was. (Nor did it help to consult the dictionary, which declares an ordinal to be a book of forms to be used in the consecration of Bishops).

American sports commentators are short on basic information but high on emotion and dudgeon. The emotion was given full vent when America's best hope for a gold medal in the pairs skating had to cry off because of an injury to Randy Gardner, the male half of the ensemble before.

This was dreadfully disappointing for him and his petite partner, Tai Babilonia, but the story may not have warranted the obsessive treatment it received from the commentators, who were able to talk about scarcely anything else for days. It was discussed as a national tragedy, one more rebuff from the cruel fates who had already dished out to America more than its share of disaster in Iran and Afghanistan.

The film of Miss Babilonia wiping a tear from eye as she skated sadly out of the rink was shown time and again. Pairs skating, possibly because of its sexual overtones, is a deeply passionate sport, and I felt I had witnessed similar harrowing scenes before.

The television people were quick to remind me when they showed a film of Irina Rodnina winning the world championship seven years ago as half of a

Soviet pair, only to leave the ice weeping because her partner loved another woman.

Equipped with a new partner, later to be her husband, Miss Rodnina has carried on winning and duly did so this time. Between victories the pair have produced a baby son, Sasha, who has appeared on our screens almost as much as the hapless Gardner and Babilonia.

One commentator, in a fit of uncontrollable mawkishness, presented a soft, soggy, sentimentalized version of the event, saying: "Give this to Sasha for me." She appeared unimpressed, but at least the lad is unlikely to reach the age of ten without knowing what an ordinal is.

The commentator's dudgeon was reserved for those familiar targets, the Russian judges, whose marking of the skaters was seen to be biased. Nobody said this outright, but the message was conveyed through a series of heavily underscored observations: the oral equivalent of raised eyebrows. There was even a veiled hint that the winning Soviet pair broke the rules when her partner put his hand on Miss Rodnina's thigh during the tricky manoeuvre.

I noticed that the Russian judges' partiality was patriotic rather than ideological, for when their allies the Czechs or the East Germans were battling for a medal with a Soviet skater, they were marked down too. I do not think they con-



sciously cheat: it is simply that they know what they like, and what they like are Russian skaters.

Winter sports enthusiasts, apart from venting their emotions with occasional outbursts of boos, do not seem to bear grudges long, and there have been no politically-inspired demonstrations against the Soviet athletes. For the past 10 days the Khzyer Pass has seemed a tremendous distance from Lake Placid's Whiteface mountain.

I wonder what effect this will have on the American public's reaction to the country's boycott of the Moscow

Olympics? The boycott seems likely to go ahead, although the United States Olympic committee were careful last week to keep their options open before coming to a formal decision in April.

Viewing figures show that people love these contests, even if they do not understand all of what is going on. By July they may be feeling sore at having to forfeit the excitement for the sake of a moral gesture which by then might seem increasingly pointless.

By a marvellous irony it was against the Russians that the American athletes achieved their greatest triumph last week, when on Friday their ice hockey team, against the odds and, it must be said, against the rule of play, beat the Soviet squad by the odd goal.

The excitement was uncontainable. One television sports announcer, quite overcome by the immensity of the occasion, called it the greatest American victory since the Second World War. It was all the more welcome to Americans because, except for the speed skating heroics of Eric Heiden, they had not had much to cheer.

Randy Gardner's injured leg was not the only piece of bad luck. Indeed, so often did Americans fall victim to misfortune that the superstitious might suppose the Olympic gods were trying to punish them for their mischief-making over Moscow.

The most blatant example came in the slaloming, when one American jumper made a leap so colossal that he overshoot the safety zone and the whole contest had to be restarted, from a point lower down the slope. He never repeated the trick and finished 17th.

Now 17th is the kind of position in which British competitors long used to being the underdogs, generally finish. For those who take such indicators seriously, could it be that the comparative lack of American success means that America is about to follow Britain into the national decline in the throes of which the pundits tell us we have been for as long as I can remember?

Viewing figures show that the bigger disaster for Americans came not in the events themselves but in the arrangements made for spectators to get to watch them.

When I went up to Lake Placid before Christmas various people there made predictions of alarming things that could go wrong. There might not be enough snow on the ski runs; the ice-making machines might fill the skating arena with carbon monoxide, poisoning the skaters' lungs; all the arena itself might collapse.

None of that happened, but grave foul-ups did occur in areas where few had expected them. The intricate system for getting people to the events by bus from the distant parking

areas proved inoperable on the first day, and intending spectators had to wait so long to pick up reserved tickets that they missed the events they had paid to see. I predict a torrid summer of litigation, a bonanza for lawyers.

Other victims had to wait for two hours and more for transport, in temperatures only just above zero degrees Fahrenheit. Several cases of frostbite were reported. The chaos finally reached the athletes when some Russian medal-winners did not attend their victory ceremony because nobody told them it was going to take place.

Mr Petr Spurney, the general manager of the organizing committee, gave frequent press conferences, but his only unshakable confidence that things would be all right tomorrow, but they were not. After three days Mr Hugh Carey, governor of the state of New York, declared a partial state of emergency and sent in a reserve battalion of bus drivers.

As it was, the fiasco must have destroyed the belief any one there may have had in fabled American efficiency. The American way of life has tremendous advantages over most others, but as systems and living become more complex, the smooth working of the machinery can less and less be claimed as one of them.

The mess-up at least provoked a funny good news and bad news "joke". The good news is that the Tehran hostages may

soon be freed. The bad news is that the Lake Placid Olympic Committee are arranging their transport home.

There is a lot of joking, now that the Olympics are over, about the return from our televised sport to the presidential election campaign. The contest to gain the highest office in what, despite everything, is still the world's most powerful democracy, now hinges on whether one of the contenders, Mr Ronald Reagan, may or may not be forgiven for telling a joke which cast aspersions on Poles and Italians.

For some, a more significant issue was whether or not the reporter who first broke the "news" should be forgiven for solemnly copying down the text of a story told in a relaxed moment and bringing it to the public as this, perhaps taking "war" and all "journalism" too far?

In any case, it keeps us glued to our sets these cold winter evenings and provokes more of the questions. "Dad," he asked, "what's an ethnic joke?"

I fixed myself another slug of bourbon before stretching out to my full length on the sofa.

"My son," I replied, "I think you're old enough now to be told the one about the Englishman, the Irishman and the Scotsman..."

Michael Leapman



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

NO EASY VICTORY

The Soviet Union is not winning in Afghanistan. It is not winning the hearts and minds of the people and it is not winning the military battle against the guerrillas. This does not mean it can never win. If it puts in enough troops and allows them to kill enough people it might achieve an uneasy stability. And if it draws on its post-revolutionary experience of slaughtering and deporting whole nations it might over a period of years bring Afghanistan into the Soviet Union. But the situation at the moment must be considerably worse than the Soviet leaders expected when they ordered the invasion two months ago. Fighting continues, especially in the eastern parts of the country. The land routes to Jalalabad are largely out of Soviet control. The Afghan army is still suffering significant defections. Closed shops and demonstrations in Kabul testify eloquently to the anti-Soviet feelings of the people. Hopes—if there were such hopes—that Mr Karmal might win credibility as a friend of Islam must now be in shreds. The same must be true of Soviet hopes that the country could be brought quickly under military control. As more reinforcements pour in the Soviet leaders will now be contemplating the implications of a prolonged struggle.

Does this mean that they are already looking seriously for a way out? Logically it should, for they seem to have made two serious miscalculations. They miscalculated the strength of resistance inside Afghanistan and they miscalculated the reaction of the West and the non-aligned, expecting both to be more verbal and transitory than is so far the case. If they see this now they might be expected to start trying to cut their losses. But even the Americans took several years to face up to defeat in Vietnam, and the elderly Soviet leadership is not quick on its feet. Probably Soviet generals, like their American counterparts in Vietnam, are still arguing that a few hundred thousand more troops will enable them to do the job. Even if they are not, the political system does not facilitate change. The whole Politburo will certainly have endorsed the invasion together, whatever private misgivings may have been felt by some members. They are all responsible and they are all guilty. Therefore none can criticize the others without also criticizing himself. Nor can anyone outside the Politburo start the critical ball rolling without being quickly sat upon.

At the moment, therefore, the leadership is in the phase of trying to limit the damage and find scapegoats elsewhere. The line is now clear. First, say the Soviets, the trouble in Afghanistan was caused—and is still being caused—by interference from outside. The Americans, Pakistanis, Chinese and others are arming subversive elements. The Soviet Union is merely offering fraternal help to the legitimate Government under the terms of the friendship treaty of December 5, 1978. Secondly, the western reaction is explained

almost entirely by the imperatives of the American election campaign and has no basis in the realities of the situation. Therefore détente can be restored as soon as the West comes to its senses again.

These arguments are thin and are seen by most people to be thin, so they will only do for a while. As the struggle goes on the Kremlin will have to face more questions. Casualty figures will become more widely known among the Soviet people. The economic costs of the enterprise, including the effects of the grain embargo, will be trotted up against the generally poor state of the economy. East European countries will become even more reluctant to raise their contributions to the defence budgets for the sake of overseas adventures (Angola and Ethiopia are still costing money). The Muslim countries will observe the daily killing of Muslims. None of this will necessarily be sufficient to force a change of course in Moscow but it could gradually have one of two effects—either prodding Mr Brezhnev to look for a political bridge across which to retreat or, if the time for a change of leader has come for other reasons, influencing the choice of his successor.

In these circumstances it is important for western policy to remain firm and consistent. Only if the costs of Soviet aggression remain high will the right consequences be drawn in the Kremlin. Unilateral western concessions help hawks not doves by indicating that aggression pays.

where the person concerned is not so familiar. The Press Council's report refers to "the cumulative effect which repeated telephone inquiries made to a household not geared to receive them was likely to have on Professor Bedson". It consequently suggests that where "inquiries may focus such severe pressure as this on an individual" arrangements should be made to lessen the pressure. The council hopes that "universities and other authorities will make such arrangements by, say, the routing of telephone calls and the holding of press conferences in the future".

In principle, this is sensible enough. It must obviously be right to take excessive pressure off any person whenever this can be done. But there are liable to be two practical difficulties. The first is that it is not always easy to tell when a person is under exceptional strain. That is especially true when the pressure is of anxiety about a particular crisis or controversy may be even more wearing than the attendant publicity. Secondly, there may be cases where only the principal individual concerned has the technical knowledge to answer the most relevant questions. It was apparently for this reason that Professor Bedson decided of his own volition to take calls himself. The prudent doctrine of the Press Council must not be made a justification for providing that questions will be taken only by press officers who are not equipped to answer them.

places costs in all £140m a year, and adds that he sees no reason why the Community taxpayer should not be spared most of that bill. More to the point, his legal researches suggest that the solution to the problem, contrary to the view held in the old nominated Parliament, lies entirely in the hands of MEPs.

A short recall of post-war Community history may not come amiss. Strasbourg's dominant place in West European affairs derives from Ernest Bevin, the British Foreign Secretary, who saw a city that had been in and out of French and German hands as an apt symbol of European unity that must be the chamber and headquarters of the Council of Europe were built there; and to this day the Parliament's hemicycle and offices belong to the Council of Europe, if only because after direct elections no other chamber was available to take 410 members and their supporting staffs. (Luxembourg has now completed its move to Strasbourg, but the Council of Ministers has not yet moved.)

But in the early days of the Community when the Assembly or Parliament claimed to be of less importance, the speech had to be distributed fairly wide. Brussels took the Commission; Luxembourg had the Parliament's headquarters, Court of Justice, and European Investment Bank; and Strasbourg provided the parliament building for the plenipotentiary in 1955 the Six pronounced formally that Luxembourg, Brussels and Strasbourg shall remain the provisional places of work of the institutions of the Community.

That is still the position. But for supporters now point out that the Council of Ministers has defaulted on Article 216 of the foundation Treaty. The seat of the Community's institutions shall be in the Member States acting in common agreement. "Seat" in the singular, let it be noted.

There is no Treaty reference to provisional working places, and Article 142 of the Treaty allows the Assembly to "adopt its rules of procedure by a vote of the majority of its members" and thereby, argue the lawyers, to fix its own single working place in default of a decision by the Council of Ministers.

In spite of the clear words of the Treaty, the governments of the Six

Protecting British agriculture

From Mr Malcolm Hill

Sir, Your issue of February 15 drew attention to the conflict of interests caused by the protection of agriculture: "farmers pulling one way and the consumers and taxpayers pulling another". On account of the import controls and subsidies instituted by the Common Agricultural Policy, the British consumers must pay annually in addition to the cost of their food valued on world market prices (a) a surcharge, representing the excess of EEC prices over world prices, valued at over £1,000m recently; and (b) a contribution to the EEC of about the same amount.

Yet the President of the National Farmers' Union has the temerity to suggest (February 15) that the distinction drawn in your leader was "a false distinction". For, he argues, the more the British farmer is encouraged to grow, the greater is the saving to the nation of the cost of imports.

This argument can be tested very simply. Let us suppose that the Government wanted to save the cost of importing pineapples. It could ban further imports and set up some hothouses in the Welsh hills. The Welsh pineapple would cost at least double a real pineapple. But, runs the NFU argument, the cost of importing the real thing is saved by whom?

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM HILL,
2A Pembroke Road, W8,
February 20.

Sex education

From Mr M. W. Wynne

Sir, When sex education is discussed what seems most often to be envisaged is a course of biological instruction and practical instruction for boys and girls in school in their early or middle teens, by which time some are in a state of dangerous ignorance and others may already have been substantially informed from casual and "vernacular" sources.

In this context the disclosures in Ronald Butt's article on sex education (February 14) was its witch-hunting tone and his insulting misrepresentations of Jane Cousins's book.

These programmes, which have a substantial and seemingly satisfied audience, show the development, birth and growth of the young baby in the context of parental care and responsibility. Sexual intercourse is described but not illustrated; nor is there a "white wedding", but loving relationships and a stable family life are implicit throughout the programmes.

The age of eight plus was chosen by the Schools Broadcasting Council after research consultation in the schools, with considerable parent involvement in the piloting stage.

It was observed that children at this age are curious about their growth and development and bring up their babies much more interesting than the sexual behaviour of adults, and I do not know of any evidence that instruction given in this way in early years leads to precocity or an obsession with sex. Rather, it gives children a better understanding of the "sex" missionaries than those who have had no such instruction.

Many parents handle this part of child rearing successfully within the family circle, but others, probably the majority, are either neglectful of this duty or find its performance difficult and embarrassing and are glad of help from the schools at any stage. In many schools excellent instruction is given by teachers with the skill and the temperament to present it effectively.

Parent-teacher cooperation is so important in this field that the pro-

Abortion law changes

From Mr L. J. Macfarlane

Sir, The statement made in Parliament on February 15 by the Solicitor General for Scotland, Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, that under the law of Scotland neither in the 13 years before that, had it ever been a crime to destroy a foetus in utero at any stage of pregnancy (The Times, February 16), may have been plausible rhetoric but showed a dismal grasp of his native country's past history and legislation.

From the earliest centuries of Scotland's conversion to Christianity down to 1560, his country, like every other civilised European country, was subject to canon law, which expressly forbade the destruction of the life focus in utero, meaning such, like infanticide, as an affront to God, the giver of life, and a crime against man (Corpus Iuris Canonici, Decretales Greg. IX, Lib. V, tit. 12, c. 2. De homicidio voluntarii vel casuali, Anno xiv, AD 1211).

Yours faithfully,
L. J. MACFARLANE,
Senior Lecturer in History,
Taylor Building,
King's College,
Old Aberdeen.

Future of Inner London schooling

From Mr Martin Lightfoot

Sir, Professor David Smith (Social Focus, February 20) makes a number of very familiar points in favour of breaking up the ILEA. He compares the examination results of ILEA pupils with those from other authorities. He does not say that the 11 plus comparability tests, validated nationally for many years by the National Foundation for Educational Research, have consistently shown that the number of able pupils in ILEA is well below the national level.

He makes a political point about the abolition of the grammar schools, when he must know that the examination results he quotes are the result of the grammar school system and cannot yet be attributed to a fully non-selective system.

He compares the cost of education in inner London with authorities elsewhere, but he does not compare the costs of other services, such as social services administered by the inner London boroughs, which show comparable variations.

He quotes population figures to show that there are education authorities as small as the grammar London boroughs, without stopping to question whether those authorities are in a good position to provide the necessary level and quality of service, and without even mentioning the drop in the birth rate, which will effect a reduction of over 40 per cent in inner London secondary schools by the end of this decade.

If there is a case for doing something about the ILEA, it will have to be argued more responsibly than this. There is no doubt that ILEA's constitution is unique, some will say anomalous. However, my own experience of ILEA is not the same as

Professing to be in my observation education is frequently an issue at both borough and GLC elections, and I know from personal experience that the process of consultation with the inner London boroughs on the level of precept can be scrupulous.

Moreover, Professor Smith's proposal that education should be devolved to the boroughs comes at a time when there is widespread realization that many urgent problems, especially in the inner cities, require bodies with powers to act across local government boundaries, and indeed the Secretary of State for the Environment has recently sought powers to do just that. Can we look forward to Professor Smith mounting the same arguments about London's docklands?

Many people will agree with the Marshall Committee's set up by the Conservative-controlled GLC, that for all its faults ILEA should be left alone. If something does need to be done, why does no one propose the most obvious solution? Instead of disruption and expensive disruption, as we know from the abolition of Middlesex—of dividing ILEA up, what is the objection to allowing direct elections to the authority?

Given the nature of inner London, the appreciable amount of travel to school across borough boundaries and the unparalleled provision of higher and further education, devolving education to the inner London boroughs risks diminishing drastically the element of democratic control which it is designed to secure.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN LIGHTFOOT,
16 de Beauvoir Square, N1,
February 20.

Peace groups in Northern Ireland

From Mrs Christopher Ewart-Biggs

Sir, I welcome Mr David Bleakley's letter in your columns today (February 22). He made the point clearly that there is no interruption in the work being done towards creating a climate for peace in Northern Ireland. The members of the Community of the Peace People have differed over method and organization, but there has been no difference of opinion among them as to their objective. They will go on working, individually and collectively, towards peace, as do those many other groups who make up the forces of reason and sanity in Ireland.

Members of the Peace People of England, Scotland and Wales will continue to support such work. Our of its slender resources, this organization has already contributed to the Corrymeela and Glenties reconciliation centres, where families of all backgrounds meet together to learn and work together. We support all work which provides cultural, recreational and sporting activities for Northern Ireland's youth. This is our priority since today's stone-throwing child so easily becomes tomorrow's killer.

Such work deserves the support of all reasonable people on both sides of the Irish Sea.

Yours faithfully,
JANE EWART-BIGGS,
31 Radnor Walk, S.W.3,
February 22.

A word for the Vikings

From Professor Ian Finlay

Sir, Press and BBC comments on the Viking exhibition at the British Museum built up the image of the Vikings as not more pirates. Most of us who have lived in areas strongly influenced by them have long realized their virtues, and I recall a day many years ago at Uppsala when Professor Bertil Almqvist brilliantly demonstrated to my wife and me just how cultured and progressive people they were.

Any visitor to the exhibition may glimpse—no more than that—their impact on the culture of a people they succeeded where if the cars in look at the decoration on the museum's ball-shrine from Tipperary, known as the "Bearnan Cúileann". The whiskered masks on it could have come out of the Osage ship-burial.

Yet, to keep the record straight, their reputation for rapine is not entirely a fiction of the monkish chroniclers, as implied by some accounts of the exhibition.

As the most recent writer on the life of St Columba, I have spent much time in examining the interesting evidence about which is reflected in its art. Of the Irish metalwork surviving from the eighth century, about half is Viking plunder now in Scandinavian museums. Much has been crushed as rubbish, like the silver hoard from Bursledon in Cso.

The irony of this is that, were it not for the Viking practice of burying loot with the dead, we should know much less about that church which kept the flame of Christianity burning in western Europe and which eventually helped convert the Vikings.

Yours faithfully,
I. FINLAY,
Currie Rigg,
3 Newmill Road,
Edinburgh,
February 18.

From Miss Adrienne Corri

Sir, Herodotus mentions amongst the army of Xerxes, troops who "had small shields made of the hide of an ox, and carried each of them two spears such as are used in the game of bowls. These shields protected their heads; and above these they wore the ears and horns of an ox fashioned in brass. They also had crests on their helmets; and their legs were bound round with their hands. There is an oracle of Mars in the country of this people."

The name of this nation has been lost. Vikings perhaps?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIENNE CORRI,
26 Springdale Road, NWS,
February 13.

Ripeness is all

From the Editor-in-Chief of Which?

Sir, If Mr Levin (February 19) would care to drop in on me lunchtime, I would explain to him—over a glass of wine and some by now well-matured test samples of Gloucester and Devon Blue—how Which? came to describe all the (11) types of cheese in the shops, and the (68) varieties of those types which were found to be reasonably widely available. And I would be happy to promise to put all we write to the test of "Could Mr Levin misunderstand it?" Will this secure the promised goods of cheese with Armagnac?

Yours faithfully,
TIM CRAWLEY-BORVEY,
Editor-in-Chief, Which?
Consumers' Association,
14 Buckingham Street, WC2,
February 19.

Movables feast?

From Miss Hilary Webb

Sir, The plight of the inhabitants of Finisterre, where starlings are said (report, February 20) to be consuming 30 tons of corn a day, is appalling. It is a desperate situation and requires desperate measures, and I would like to offer a possible remedy which, with good will, could solve two problems at once.

How about introducing the birds to a diet of Golden Delicious apples? If they are really hungry they would perhaps not be so particular about what they ate, and might in time even come to enjoy them. And we, for our part, would gladly forgo our right to the crop in such a deserving cause.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY WEBB,
42 Meadows Road,
Cheam,
Surrey,
February 21.

From Mr Jonathan Hazell

Sir, Much of the reluctance by medical specialists to advise in medical cases relates to the possibility of a court appearance (Mr David Caro, February 21).

The best opinions often come from the busiest NHS doctors who have to cancel clinics at short notice, and inconvenience patients who have been waiting a long time for their appointments. Any system that reduced the waiting time for a court appearance would encourage more participation by those whose opinions are most valued.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN HAZELL,
14 Deneourt Road,
Highgate, N6.

Convertibility to gold

From Mr Geoffrey Strickland

Sir, I had expected Mr Rees-Mogg's recommendation of convertibility to gold (February 1) to receive extensive comment in your correspondence columns. Since it has not, may I—though not an economist—point out that if it were to be put into effect and proved successful, it would be a posthumous vindication of General de Gaulle, whose own opinions in this respect were close to those of Mr Rees-Mogg and de Gaulle's own adviser Jacques Rueff?

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY STRICKLAND,
Department of French Studies,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights,
Reading.

A doctor's time

From Mr Jonathan Hazell

Sir, Much of the reluctance by medical specialists to advise in medical cases relates to the possibility of a court appearance (Mr David Caro, February 21).

The best opinions often come from the busiest NHS doctors who have to cancel clinics at short notice, and inconvenience patients who have been waiting a long time for their appointments. Any system that reduced the waiting time for a court appearance would encourage more participation by those whose opinions are most valued.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN HAZELL,
14 Deneourt Road,
Highgate, N6.

Deadness

From the Director of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf

Sir, Stanley Reynolds must be taken to task for his review on February 15.

He suggests that a hearing-aid is an essential feature for "the perfect deaf person". It is not. It is a device that the public will dismiss once and for all the idea that it is a condition only to be treated as a joke.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SYDENHAM, Director,
The Royal National Institute for the Deaf,
105 Gower Street, WC1.

David Wood

Stopping the parliamentary road show

Long before direct elections last June it was predictable, and was indeed predicted, that the European Parliament would soon grow estive about accidents of history and horse-trading that blessed up it three working places at great cost with a risk of inefficiency, and with the certainty of widespread inconvenience to MPs and staff.

Prophecies are being fulfilled. It is now too early to say that the days of the peripatetic Parliament are numbered, but a campaign is afoot among parliamentarians to oust the Council of Ministers, which has defaulted on Article 216 of the EEC Treaty, by fixing a single location in the Parliament's own rules of procedure. Leaders of the political groups in Brussels last week also looked at another procedural device for circumventing the council: a grand committee that would, like other parliamentary committees, meet in Brussels rather than Strasbourg or Luxembourg.

Soaring above the butter and milk powder mountains and the wine lakes, nobody needs to be particularly sighted to describe some of the more outrageous Community follies. The parliamentarians are "not it with me in Strasbourg for a week 13 or 14 times in 1980, that administrative staff will work and live 138 miles away in Luxembourg, and that its committee meetings will be held near the 145 miles from Luxembourg, and 283 miles from Strasbourg. Every time the Parliament or its committees are in Strasbourg or Brussels, vans are loaded as for a travelling circus and MPs and staff take to the road.

Alan Tyrrell, QC, the British Conservative for London East, has made himself a considerable expert on this subject. He calculates that travelling between three working

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWSSailing orders
for
London's
docklands, P19

Stock markets
FT Ind 454.2
FT Gilt 65.37
Sterling
\$2.2760
Index 72.8
Dollar
Index 86.1
Gold
\$629.5
Money
3 month sterling
17 1/4-17 1/2
3 month Euro \$16 1/2-17
6 month Euro \$16 1/2-17

IN BRIEF

Meccano
unions seek
to postpone
closure date

Unions at the Meccano factory in Liverpool are to seek an extension of the closure deadline imposed by Airfix Industries, the parent company. This is the result of a visit last Friday by Mr Neil Gough, who is representing a Canadian consortium which is considering takeover. Mr Gough is due to meet Mr Ralph Erman, the Airfix chairman, early this week.

Airfix is due to take the plant back on Thursday at the end of the 90-day statutory notice, during which the factory has been occupied by the workers. More than 500 of them have accepted redundancy terms.

Stronger watchdogs call

Consumers are captives of the nationalized industries, and consumer councils looking after their interests should be strengthened, Mr Michael Barnes says in the council's annual report, out today. He adds that it would be a tragedy if the review of "quangos" failed to distinguish between those which did an important job and those which might be superfluous.

World Bank bonds

The World Bank said a Sw Fr 100m (£26m) issue of its 10-year bonds, bearing interest at 5.75 per cent annually, will be offered to the public at 99 per cent of par tomorrow by a Swiss underwriting group headed by Union Bank of Switzerland. The money will be used for loans to developing nations.

Korea SDR link

South Korea's currency, the won, is being linked to the IMF's special drawing rights and will no longer be pegged to the United States dollar. This is a first step towards a floating exchange system involving the currencies of South Korea's major trading partners.

New bank chairman

Signor Giovanni Guidi, managing director of Banco di Roma, has been appointed chairman, in place of Signor Leopoldo Modugno, who resigns. In his own request, Signor Guidi keeps the post of managing director which he will now share with Signor Tommaso Rubbi.

Trinity House order

Trinity House is to place the £3m order for the replacement of its flagships THV Patricia with Robb Caledon of Dundee after tendering worldwide. The new ship's main job will be servicing the 800 Trinity House buoys around the British coast.

Hospital contract

Taylor Woodrow of Nigeria has won a £28m contract to construct further phases of the Sokoto Teaching Hospital programme, in the north west of the country. The company awarded the first phase of the contract in 1974.

Exhibitors 30 pc up

Exhibitors are up by 30 per cent at Electrex, the biannual exhibition of the electrical engineering industry, which is expected to attract 30,000 people to the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, this week.

Iran uranium stake

Iran plans to keep its stake in the Eurodif uranium enrichment consortium but will not purchase uranium which would have been due to it, Iran, which has a 10 per cent holding, denied that it planned to withdraw from the consortium.

Venezuela oil exports

Venezuela's average daily oil exports in the first six weeks of 1980 were 14 per cent below the pace set in 1979. Exports fell from 43 million barrels a day from 2,032 million barrels in 1979.

First of 21,000 car men
laid off as Leyland
wrestles with sales slump

By Edward Townsend

A programme of lay-offs and redundancies throughout BL cars and component factories began today and will involve about 21,000 workers—almost 18 per cent of the workforce—in the coming weeks.

The action has been forced upon BL by the sharp decline in its market share in January and the glut of unsold cars in dealers' showrooms. It is estimated that stocks of BL cars around the country are now sufficient to meet 16 weeks' demand, against a normal stocking level of 10 weeks.

Today, nearly 13,000 workers will be laid off and 6,500 put on short working time. The peak of the lay-offs will be reached in the first week of March when 14,500 will be idle and 6,900 on short time. The combined total will fall to about 9,000 in the last week of the month.

BL's main aim is to reduce output of Morris, Maxi, Daimler, Princess and Rover cars. The company said there were an estimated 80,000 vehicles lying unsold at its factories and showrooms.

More lay-offs will occur today at the Pressed Steel Fisher plant at Speke, Merseyside, bringing the total without work there to 350, more than a quarter of the workforce. The factory makes bodies for the Daimler model, production of which is halted at the Canley plant in Coventry.

There could be further lay-offs if demand for a particular model did not increase, a Leyland spokesman said yesterday. "But we are not thinking about those lines at the moment."

Uncertainty over the impact of the dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson, the Leyland union convenor, was now behind them, the spokesman said, but agreement on a new wage deal was still to be achieved and a number of other problems had to be resolved.

News of the layoffs has angered trade union officials who fear that the company will announce 500 even more redundancies than the 25,000 which Leyland claims are necessary as part of the company's recovery plan.

Under this plan—backed by the Government which is injecting £300m into the company this year—13 BL plants will be shut, either fully or partly.

The United Kingdom motor components industry is being hit by the downturn in the car market and the subsequent contraction of orders from the big producers, Ford, Vauxhall and Talbot as well as BL are all said to have cut their supply schedules.

Among the worst affected will be the small engineering companies, mostly in the West Midlands, which are heavily dependent on business from the home car manufacturers, particularly BL. Larger component companies have reduced their reliance on BL in recent years and many have expanded or diverted to export markets.

Component makers are facing a further threat because the national steel strike is hitting supplies. Steel supplies are at critical levels in some areas. There have been limited layoffs at some companies, but BL's production cutback is expected to have a much quicker and wider impact.

BL's market share slumped to a record low level of 15 per cent in January. It climbed back to about 18 per cent in the first two weeks of this month and the company is hoping for 20 per cent of the market in March.

The £2m "Buy British" campaign, which got off to a slow start in January, should improve sales in the latter part of this month, BL said. March will be the key month in the campaign. The total United Kingdom car market this year is expected to decline from last year's record 1.7 million to 1.5 million with some observers forecasting sales as low as 1.3 million.

Against this background, Ford said last week it was planning to maintain its units sales in the United Kingdom this year which would mean lifting its market share from 28.3 per cent in 1979 to more than 32 per cent. The company hopes to increase domestic output and reduce imports.

Meanwhile, a two-week lay-off for 400 workers at Ford's Halewood, Merseyside, ends today. The men, who work on the transmission assembly line, were laid off because of component shortages.

Communists unveil plan for Fiat

Italy's Communist Party, in an unusual initiative towards an individual enterprise, concluded today a three-day meeting devoted to analysing the problems facing the Fiat car company. The meeting was attended by 1,000 and represented an attempt to start a dialogue between Italy's biggest private company and western Europe's largest Communist party.

Party speakers took the line that the company needed neither nationalization nor workers' communitarianism but required state support, not for the purposes of enriching the Agnelli family, but to enable the group to overcome present and impending problems.

The Fiat management although invited, did not attend but several company officials were present at the meeting.

The management came in for criticism from party speakers who stressed the need for improving productivity, rationalization and decentralization, greater emphasis on the Mezzogiorno, healthier and safer working conditions and energy saving policies.

All this should happen within the framework of a national plan (of which there is no sign at present) for road transportation. It was argued, Speakers did not oppose collaboration with foreign manufacturers, including the proposed agreement between Alfa Romeo and Nissan of Japan.

The party submitted to the meeting results of a mass research it has conducted into the opinions of Fiat workers, who were asked to reply to 54 questions. The questionnaires have been submitted to nearly 25,000 of the group's 270,000 workers in Italy but results from only 6,454 have come in so far.

These indicate that slightly under half the workforce belong to trade unions. On the question of collaboration with management, 44.4 per cent thought it necessary, 23.4 per cent possible and 32.2 per cent impossible. The most common reply to what was their main desire at work was adequate wages and job security (36.5 per cent) followed by a place of work not harmful to health (31 per cent).

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Fairey bid backers named as NEB chairman
expresses anger at Hambros involvement

By Philip Robinson

Equity Capital for Industry, the financial institution set up four years ago and backed by about 300 pension funds and insurance companies, is among a dozen investment groups behind the £18.5m bid by Hambros Bank to buy Fairey Holdings from the National Enterprise Board.

Other groups include the Sun Life and Prudential Assurance companies, the pension funds of the Coal Board, Imperial Group and BP, the ICFC, and Thompson Clive the West-End financiers.

Meanwhile rumours of discontent are reportedly echoing around the NEB over Hambros' sudden decision to enter the bidding.

Initial reaction to the bank's entrepreneurial offer from Sir Arthur Knight, the NEB chairman, has been cool. He said his board will "consider the offer", but behind the statement is thought to be an angry reaction to what is considered to be an "opportunistic" move by Hambros.

It is understood that Mr Angus Murray, the Fairey chairman who was appointed to a consultancy role when the company collapsed two years ago, is amazed at the NEB's cool reception.

A spokesman for Mr Murray said yesterday that the NEB board had been aware that a takeover was being put together to bid for the whole of Fairey since September 21.

The move to ask Hoare

Gover the stockbrokers if they could put a number of interested parties together followed the June meeting between the NEB and Hambros Bank. This was to explore the likelihood of refloating Fairey to public ownership as part of the Government's plan of achieving £100m of asset sale within its first year in office.

At that time Hambros said market conditions were not favourable for a flotation and the idea of asking Hoare Govett to approach financial institutions in the City was agreed between Mr Murray and Sir Leslie Murphy who was then NEB chairman.

When Sir Leslie resigned from the NEB over the Rolls-Royce issue, Mr Murray went to Sir Arthur Knight, his successor, who endorsed the idea of a syndicate.

On February 15 Mr Murray was approached by Hambros and asked how a bid by Hambros on behalf of a consortium of a dozen financial institutions would be received. Seven days later Hambros launched its bid with the whole-hearted approach of Mr Murray and the Fairey Board.

The spokesman for Mr Murray said: "To say that this Hambros offer came out of the blue is nonsense. The NEB board were aware of what was happening at every stage."

The Hambros plan is particularly appealing to Mr Murray, who has consistently defended any approaches which would lead to the splitting up of the

engineering group which the NEB bought from the receiver for £20m.

If the Hambros bid is successful, it, with two other intermediaries will place the bulk of Fairey's capital with a dozen institutions. They in turn would expect to float Fairey as a public company once again in about two years. Hambros would intend to remain about 10 per cent of the capital of Fairey for its own funds, though whether this stake would include holdings by Hoare Govett and Thompson Clive, the other two participants in a placing with the institutions, is unclear at this stage.

While the Hambros move has brought pressure for an early answer since a 28-day completion deadline has been set with the stipulation that during that time no negotiations should take place with any other party, the outcome for Fairey may not be known until April.

Fairey profits in 1978 were £5.2m on sales of £43.5m. Last year's accounts are still in the hands of the auditors. Apart from Hambros, no one has come up with a firm offer for the whole of the group, but great interest has been shown in buying parts of it: Trafalgar House would like to buy the bridge-building business, Dowery has apparently expressed an interest in its aerospace hydraulic systems and NEI (formerly Northern Engineering Industries) could be interested in Fairey's nuclear engineering operations.

But its initial attempts to fill that need were marred by the collapse of Bond Worth, its first investment. In December 1978, ECI was given a further two years to prove its usefulness. Its big change of direction was to go out and look for business rather than wait for it to arrive.

Equity Capital was launched in 1976 under the sponsorship of the Bank of England to meet, in part, criticism that the financial community's speculative activities are raising equity funds. But its initial attempts to fill that need were marred by the collapse of Bond Worth, its first investment. In December 1978, ECI was given a further two years to prove its usefulness. Its big change of direction was to go out and look for business rather than wait for it to arrive.

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Sir Arthur Knight: cool reaction to Hambros offer.

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Bank union
to negotiate
25 pc claim
nationally

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

Pay negotiations for staff in the main high street banks, which are due to start within the next two weeks, will be considerably simplified by the employers' decision to conduct negotiations at a national level.

Last year's negotiations which were generally described as "chaotic", were conducted with each bank individually and led to enormous problems for the banks, ending with the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU) taking selective industrial action.

This year's negotiations on pay claims of more than 25 per cent from BIFU and staff associations at three of the main clearing banks will be held nationally, which BIFU yesterday claimed as a victory.

The banks will be coming under increasing pressure to meet the pay claims in full in view of their much higher profits last year. Lloyds Bank was the first to announce its 1979 results at the end of last week, and they showed a 45 per cent increase to a pre-tax profit of £276.6m.

Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of BIFU which has submitted a claim for a 25 per cent increase across the board and increase of up to 31 per cent for lower-paid members, said last night: "The Lloyds results, and others which we expect to be announced shortly, show that the banks can quite easily meet our claim, which is considered to be justified."

Staff associations at the National Westminster, Lloyds and Barclays banks have submitted a claim which ranges from 20 per cent for lower-paid staff to 28 per cent for the higher clerical grades.

BIFU was concerned that if negotiations were held at a national level, the employers would appear to be considering "staff associations" negotiating rights at the Midland and Williams and Glyn's banks where BIFU has separate agreements.

Expect frequent TV blackouts,
advertising agencies warned

By David Hewson

Advertising agencies were told yesterday to expect "more frequent and more prolonged" blackouts on commercial television as management and unions battled over pay in the 1980s.

The warning follows a report from the D'Arcy-MacManus agency that during last year's 11-week television strike, sales of 96 advertised brands fell by 45 per cent, with the highest spending advertisers being hit the hardest. Some £45m worth of television advertising was cancelled.

The forecast of industrial action came from Mr Michael Townsend, media director of the Young and Rubicam agency. Speaking at the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising conference at Stratford on Avon, he said: "The reason commercial television was virtually strike-free until last year, was that it paid up, and its substantial profits allowed it to do so."

"But I think it unlikely that the 1980s will see such prolonged periods of industrial peace."

"The reason is that both the substantial increase in the ITV contractors' rental payments to the IBA and the new subscription payments to meet the budget for the fourth channel will place ITV under tremendous financial strain in the 1980s, with the result that they will have to get tougher with the unions."

"And the unions, of course, with the greater expansion of television broadcasting in the 1980s, will be getting stronger. So like the rest of British industry, I fear that we, too, must learn to live with much more frequent and prolonged

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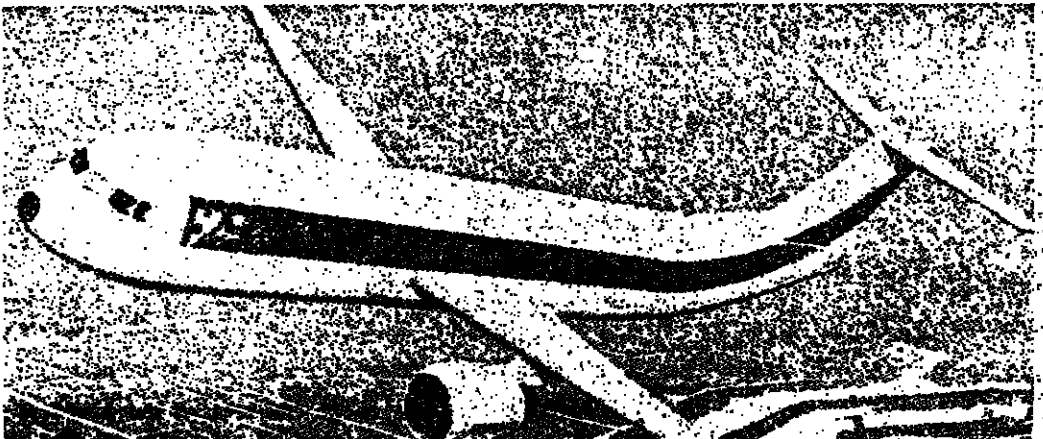
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The Fokker F29: Japanese may become development and financial partners

Dutch 'lukewarm' on airbus deal

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Fokker, the Dutch aerospace company, has received a new approach from the European Airbus Industrie consortium for a joint project to develop a 150-seat twinjet airliner.

Officially, Fokker says it is "considering" the proposal; but aviation circles expect the reaction to be lukewarm at best. The Dutch company is well advanced with plans for its own 130-150 seater, the F29, and has high hopes of signing the Japanese as development and financial partners.

Mr Frans Swartouw, chairman of Fokker, has already had two series of talks with the Japanese during recent visits to Tokyo. He hopes to bring a deal closer when a Japanese delegation comes to Holland in April.

Airbus Industrie—in which France, West Germany and Britain are the major partners, with Holland, Spain and Belgium—has also been looking to Japan as a potential partner for a 150-seat aircraft. It has offered the Japanese a 25 per cent share as well as full partnership in the Airbus consortium.

Fokker's proposal is for Japanese manufacturers to design and produce the wings for the F29. This would account for about 30 per cent of the project which is expected to cost some £350m to develop.

During their April visit to Toulouse where Airbus Industrie hopes, they cannot fail to be impressed with the production line of the 300-seat A300-600 and the smaller A310, over 400 of which have been sold.

AI's new approach to Fokker for the two projects to be merged into one is being seen in Europe as an indication that the consortium is worried that the Dutch company is about to fill one of the few remaining gaps in the world market with its F29.

MANAGEMENT

Retail muscle in the US money markets

Sears, Roebuck is the world's largest retailing company, selling billions of pounds worth of general merchandise to tens of millions of people each year. But Sears does not just sell shirts, trousers and shoes. It also sells life, car and property insurance or will give you a short- or medium-term loan, or a full mortgage.

Richard W. Sears may have started business back in 1886 selling watches, but today the corporation that carries his name undertakes virtually every type of financial business. In fact, Sears's financial business is more profitable than its retail trade in pots, plates and pianos.

Sears's net income for the fiscal year to the end of January, 1979 was \$921.5m and of this figure insurance, property and other financial ventures accounted for more than \$500m.

This is by no means an accident. Sears has a clear management objective to diversify into financial fields, take better advantage of the financial environment in which it operates and make use of its financial clout. In fact Sears has so many assorted financial balls up in the air that it is facing new management challenges in coordinating them all.

In terms of taking better advantage of its financial environment the company has been increasingly bypassing the banks. To raise short-term cash it has established its own subsidiary for issuing bonds. Run by 38 people the subsidiary raises cash directly from banks and corporations.

By undertaking its own market operations Sears saves about one-eighth of 1 per cent in borrowing costs, which might not seem much at first; but then Sears has daily outstanding indebtedness of some \$3,000m.

On the long-term front, Sears has surprised some of its own bankers by its sophistication in going overseas for cash. It has raised some \$150m in Europe in the Eurodollar market and another \$96m in Japan. It has insurance companies in Germany and Switzerland and has share listings on Swiss bourses and the London Stock Exchange.

Mr Jack Kinnannon, vice-chairman of Sears, sees the overseas financing ventures as merely a testing of the waters. More may come, perhaps to support new expansion projects in the financial services area.

Sears tried to arrange with Great Universal Stores to sell insurance in Britain through an arrangement fell through. In Japan, Sears is selling its insurance policies through a venture with the Seibu-Seiyu group.

Typical of its plans to take advantage of its marketing skills Sears plans to raise medium-term cash directly from its customers. The company has 26 million credit card customers, and these serve as a base for it to do some experimenting. Mr Kinnannon says a survey of 5,000 customers suggests that a direct offer of Sears stock would be a big success.

In the next few months Sears will probably move into the securities brokerage business. It will try to sell directly to customers some \$250m worth of securities ranging from two to eight years. If the offer proves a success, then further such offerings might be made. "I do not see us raising more than \$500m by this means in the next few years," says Mr Kinnannon. He adds that Sears credit cards cannot be used in the stock purchases.

In the insurance field Sears owns Allstate Insurance, which has sales desks in Sears stores. Allstate had total investments of \$5,800m at the end of the 1978 fiscal year, but because of insurance rules the company cannot directly invest in Sears and help its parent reduce its financing costs. All the same, Allstate does add to Sears's financial muscle.

Sears also owns a group of building societies in California, with assets of roughly \$3,000m. These societies are being reorganized into a group of wholly owned mortgage companies, known as PMI Mortgage, PMI Mortgage Insurance, and Allstate Enterprises Mortgage. Joining this group as well is another Sears subsidiary, Homeart Development, which owns and operates 17 shopping centres and is a partner in eight others.

The new group, to be called Sears Enterprises, has a combined net income in the 1978 financial year of \$67.1m. It is indicative of just how fast this group of financial ventures has grown that the operating income and net income are both six times as great now as they were in 1973.



Mr Edward Telling, chairman of Sears, Roebuck: strength of name creates opportunities.

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Taking the trouble to train top secretaries

The effectiveness of a senior company executive depends to a great extent on the quality of the service he receives from his personal secretary.

It is she who provides him with much of the data on which he makes decisions. She is the link between him and his colleagues within the company and with important contacts outside. He relies on her for his itinerary on business trips and often for the planning of his working day, as she controls his appointments, diary and sorts through those people who wish to meet her boss. He is often heavily dependent upon her for advice and moral support.

Yet many companies promote short-handled typists to the job of secretary without any special training. The result is that the girl flounders in her new job during the critical early few weeks that can often destroy her own confidence or the confidence of her boss in her ability to assist him.

Often, without formal induction training, the personal secretary is thrown in at the deep end and kept so busy that she never has the opportunity to discover what services and facilities exist within the company that could help her to do her job more efficiently.

Mr John Wilcox-Baker is head of administration at the headquarters of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's northern division at Risley, Cheshire. When he was in the division's group training officer he set up a scheme for training personal secretaries in order to groom them to be effective assistants to senior executives.

The regulation of insider trading is one of the most emotive areas in company law. There is a school of thought which sees insider trading as a beneficial aspect of the capital market in that exploitation of such information is a valuable method of compensating entrepreneurs for the risks involved. Also, unlike other market manipulation, it can be said to push the market at least some way in the right direction.

Whatever the economic merits of insider trading, it is generally felt that for insiders to profit at the expense of others by the use of privileged information is morally wrong. It is also necessary for investors to have confidence in the price of their securities reflects their underlying values in order for the capital market to operate effectively.

It has been felt for some time that legislation is needed in order to produce a state of market equilibrium, a situation in which owners of securities will be placed in an equal position with the managers of corporations in which they invest. In fact, it is one of the objectives of the European Economic Community, stated in the 1966 report, that all persons carrying out stock exchange operations should do so on an equal footing.

Part five of the new Companies Bill contains provisions designed to deal with the basic provisions of the Bill is the problem of insider trading. That a person who has been knowingly connected with a company within the previous six months cannot deal in securities of that company if he is in possession of unpublished price sensitive information in relation to those securities.

This unpublished price sensitive information is defined as information on specific matters not generally known to those persons likely to deal in securities of the company and which would materially affect the price of such securities. This definition is extremely narrow in that the Bill stresses that matters of a general nature are not included. Such matters can be useful in predicting future developments to people with sufficient knowledge of a company's activities.

The definition of a "connected person" is also liable to cause difficulties in that it includes directors, officers of the company or others in a business or professional relationship which might give them access to price sensitive information, professional advisers could be connected persons in relation to one transaction although not in relation to another.

"If it were possible," in Mr Wilcox-Baker's controversial view, "the best way round would be to train someone first as a secretary and only later as a shorthand typist."

Courses are held twice a year by the UKAEA northern division, and they are attended by girls who have made the jump from the typing pool and who are the most likely candidates for the top secretarial jobs in the near future.

The courses cover three main themes—the work of the UKAEA as a whole; how the personal secretary can use available facilities within and outside the organization; and the personal role of the top secretary.

Girls who have attended the courses report that the introduction to available services is the aspect of most practical help. This includes visits to the telephone switchboards, to the planning and duplicating departments, the library and the archives.

There are practical exercises in which the girls are asked to use the reference library to locate information that is urgently required, and they all express surprise at the wealth of reference material that they previously did not know existed.

They learn short-cuts to essential data—statistics, the names and backgrounds of executives in other industrial organizations and in government and the Civil Service. They also meet the personnel in the travel department and are shown what forms and what facts and figures can serve to expedite an itinerary.

Presentations are given not only on dress and make-up, but on such things as the way a secretary's tone of voice influences the person at the other end of the telephone line. There are role-play sessions, in which each girl has to act as host to one of the course organizers and take him or her to lunch.

Perhaps the most sensitive part of the course is the debate on the loyalties of the personal secretary. "Ossie" Osborne, head of training at Risley, says that many girls object to the idea, prevalent in many boss-secretary relationships, that the secretary has a moral and legal duty to the extent even of being dishonest on his behalf. They do not accept that their job should include elaborate covers to hide a boss's failings or backsliding. The Risley course supports them in this attitude.

It is made clear that the secretary's first loyalty is to the UKAEA, which is the direct employer, and no secretary is to be regarded as an appendage to an executive's private empire.

The courses are usually the only occasion when secretaries can meet their counterparts from other divisions, sites within the northern division, such as Springfields Laboratories at Preston and the laboratories and reactor research station at Dounreay in Scotland. "From then on," says one girl, "communicating with them on the telephone becomes that much more interesting."

A similar course has been run by the northern division for secretaries who have been in top jobs for some time. It was meeting the other girls in person that was voted the most valuable benefit, for it greatly assisted cooperation between departments and the secretaries of various departmental chiefs had got to know each other. "It was a nice break," commented one of the girls in a written summary afterwards, "and it helped us in our work."

The intricacies of expense account documentation are explained—all bosses are gratified to get their expenses reimbursed without delay, and companies are happy to get advanced accounts for accurately and speedily.

Training in the role of the secretary does not ignore the girl's own personality. During the four-day courses, which are attended by up to twelve girls at a time, there are visiting speakers from a school that trains fashion models and from a consultancy specializing in personality development.

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Secretaries familiarise themselves with reference books in the organization's library.

After attending these courses, many girls feel confident tackling a new top secretarial job. They also point out that there are valuable spin-offs. The information on the work of the UKAEA as a whole; and the role of nuclear energy within the nation's economy, gives them a much better understanding of the contribution made by their own department.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A recipe for the survival of BL

From Mr Geoffrey Robinson, MP for Coventry, North-West (Lab)

Sir, Your leading article on British Leyland "A new level of crisis" (February 14) poses the question whether "BL as the group we know today has any future at all" and concludes correctly that it does not. However, there are certain dangerous fallacies and suggestions in your consequential arguments that might be exposed.

First you argue that since the volume car business does not make a proper contribution to profit (whatever that may be), it should be run down rapidly. Secondly, it is not just Austin Morris but Rover Triumph, too, that is in this predicament thanks to a whole series of post-Ryder policy errors.

The rapid run-down you recommend, of what would in effect therefore be virtually the entire United Kingdom owned motor-car industry, would be precisely counter to what you say is unacceptable: the turning of the Midlands into "an industrial disaster area".

The second fallacy lies in your statement: "Many of the

other parts of the company remain attractive". There are in fact just three significant parts of BL that might conceivably be floated off as attractive prices: Land-Rover, Jaguar and Alvis. But even in these cases the United Kingdom private sector would probably be at the level of capital investment needed to survive the growing intensity of international competition. Furthermore, the case for selling off Alvis and Land-Rover, companies heavily dependent on government contracts and key suppliers to our own armed forces, would be difficult to make.

The harsh reality is that whatever happened to these companies we would be left with nearly 90 per cent of the group, including its truck and bus operations, whose future can only be secured by financial backing of a sort and over a period that the private sector, on past performance, is hardly likely to provide.

Because you underestimate this awesome difficult industrial situation, you blithely suggest that BL's board should act as a receiver and preside over the dismemberment of the company and its eventual demise. Such a proposal betrays a frightening ignorance of the problems of industrial management and of the debilitating effects caused by the inevitable period of prolonged uncertainty.

If the reality of the situation is that a restructuring of BL into more manageable groups with a distinct product coherence is an essential precondition for the improvement of management performance and of industrial relations—a view, incidentally, I have long espoused—then the Government, as owner of 95 per cent of BL, must accept its responsibilities and give effect to it. In doing so, it should avoid politically motivated and financially unsound attempts to have bits off and realize that the sum of BL's parts will only be greater than the present whole if it is given sufficient and sustained financial backing. And it is still possible that, once BL ceased to exist as the nation's number one industrial hit-target, the Government would be able to stick to such a course.

Yours, etc,
GEOFFREY ROBINSON,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.
February 15.

Inflation accounting by way of CCA

From Mr A. J. Merritt and Mr Allen Sykes

Sir, Anthony Meeson (Letters February 18) repeats the often made criticism of CCA methods that they are not really inflation accounting methods at all. This view is based on a widespread misunderstanding.

All CCA methods set the relevant current costs of earning a given year's income against that year's earnings to calculate annual profit. When comparing such a profit figure with those of previous years, then to be fully meaningful they all need correction to a common purchasing power basis. There is nothing in CCA methods that either prevents this further correction or argues against it. Indeed, we have long urged it.

M. F. G. Scott raises many points in his letter and we shall write to him direct at greater length than is suitable for your columns. We refer him and others interested in our more fully stated views to our December *Accountancy* article and our ED 24 submission now published with all the other submissions.

Our brief comments on his main points are these. In *The Times* article we were primarily concerned with industrial companies (the main category covered by ED 24). These are essentially product based companies who do not sell their assets as such, but use them to produce the goods and services they sell.

Asset-based companies (property and investment companies, and the like) by contrast do deal in their own assets, so measuring their income is comparatively straightforward.

Rises in their asset values are self-evidently welcome.

For product-based companies, however, the position is quite different. In all circumstances where a consumed asset will be replaced it is right to charge its current cost against its replacement value. This will restore its owner to his previous position. If replacement costs fall this will give rise to higher future profits unless all of it has to be conceded in price cuts.

Conversely where replacement costs rise particularly when they rise in real terms—the source of so called "holding gains"—and hence the ED24 gearing adjustment—then unless such rises can be passed on in full plus an acceptable profit on the extra funds tied up, future profits will be lower.

Replacement will usually still be justified until of course replacement costs rise to the point where it pays to go out of business rather than replace. In other words, a large enough rise in holding gains can be fatal. In sum, holding gains on productive assets can almost never provide the extra profits assumed in ED24.

The whole rise in oil company shares is not due to their obvious stock appreciation, but is in major part due to the expected continued rise in oil prices, giving rise to higher real margins, and to the constant revaluation of their untapped reserves. All this may be good news for oil companies in at least the short to medium term. It remains bad news for oil consumers which is why it is right for say manufacturing firms holding normal oil fuel stocks not to add the

rise in oil values to their profits. Yours faithfully,
A. J. MERRITT
ALLEN SYKES
Mallington
The Mount,
Leatherhead,
Surrey
February 18.

From Mr A. H. Clifton
It was refreshing to read the inflation accounting debate provided by Messrs Merritt and Sykes (February 11).

Their article exposing the muddled thinking inherent in ED24 was as timely as it was welcome, and it is to be hoped now that the Accounting Standards Committee will address itself to correcting the fundamental weaknesses of its exposure draft, before any attempt is made to embody some of its more dubious principles in a mandatory accounting standard.

If one might be excused for saying so, the inflation accounting debate post-Sandilands has appeared to move further and further away from the underlying strength of economic thought which characterized that document towards the creation of a complicated rule book for converting historic cost accounts piecemeal into a form corrected for certain of the effects of inflation. In this process the accounting profession seems to have lost sight of some of the basic principles of the theory of the firm, abandoning economic concepts for the greater delights of "gearing adjustments" and the like.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CLIFTON,
9 Bishopsgate,
London EC2N 3AD.
February 12.

Lloyds Bank Group Results 1979

Under historical cost accounting:

Pre-tax profit: £277m – up 49%
Retained profit: £162m – up 49%

Under current cost accounting:

Pre-tax profit: £170m – up 28%
Retained profit: £52m – down 8%

Balance sheet total: £17,459m – up 18%
Share capital & reserves: £1,216m – up 16%



Lloyds Bank Group

Lloyds Bank Limited

CHECKLIST

Tax certificates: rate of interest on certificates applied in payment of tax to rise to 18 per cent today. Rate on deposits withdrawn for cash to be 13 per cent.

Prudential Assurance v Newnam Industries and Others: High Court decided directors can be sued by shareholders if they have de facto control of a company, even if they do not have voting control.

Flora Frodsham Ltd v Securicor Transport: House of Lords allowed appeal of Securicor against award of damages to Flora Frodsham, following fire at their premises caused by a Securicor employee. House of Lords held that question of exclusion clause is to be applied in any branch of contract is a matter of construction of the contract.

Capon v Rees Motors: Employment Appeal Tribunal held that a 52-week period of continuous employment can bring a claim for unfair dismissal, has effect for anyone dismissed after October 1, 1979.

Robinson (Inspector of Taxes) v Scott Bader Co Ltd: a British parent company, seconding an employee to work for an overseas subsidiary to further its European business, is entitled to deduct the expenses from its profits for corporation tax purposes.

Mason v Tyson (Inspector of Taxes): expenditure on residential accommodation above the shop, to enable the owner to work longer hours, is not incurred "wholly and exclusively" for professional purposes, and is not allowable as a deduction against income tax.

British Overseas Trade Board: charges for marketing services to rise by an average 20 per cent next year.

FAYE procedures: employees starting jobs are to be subject to new procedures in respect of 1975 and 1946 forms. The procedures are to be introduced during 1980, and the Inland Revenue intend to implement them fully by April 6, 1981.

World Leasing Yearbook 1980: a mighty tome, articles on general and specific aspects of leasing in individual countries, and accompanying details of national associations, lessors, consultants, and specialists. Also contains a glossary of terms. Very useful. Published by Hawkins Publishers Ltd, Stanfield House, 32 Church Street, Coggeshall, Essex.

Tax Planning: fifty four sections, ranging from accounting dates through employee benefits and sale and leaseback to working wives, contributed by specialists in their fields. Heavy reading, but clear, and a good index. From Tolley Publishing Co Ltd, 102/104 The Strand, London, EC2A 3DF (until March 31), £15 thereafter.

Manufacturing: an introduction for accountants. Covers, briefly, areas such as the organization of factories, product specification, the control of work, production planning and control. Obviously written for those with a serious intention of improving themselves in the organization of factories, product specification, the control of work, production planning and control. Obviously written for those with a serious intention of improving themselves in the organization of factories, product specification, the control of work, production planning and control. Obviously written for those with a serious intention of improving themselves in the organization of factories, product specification, the control of work, production planning and control.

Chartered Accountants of England and Wales, Publications Department, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2C 2JF (£3.95).

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Lessons from the liquidity squeeze ahead of Budget

The Bank of England has as everyone must be aware by now, been playing an extremely delicate game in financial markets over recent weeks. It has had to ensure that the monetary system did not grind to a halt for lack of liquidity; and it has been trying to prevent any further rise in bank base rates.

At this point the Bank must be just about halfway round the board and, though it is probably reasonably optimistic about completing the second half of the course without serious damage, it would certainly not dispute that each successive move must now depend on the circumstances ruling at the time.

However the general situation develops, there are a number of points worth making ahead of the consultative document on monetary reform and the Budget. Over and above the old chestnut of the obvious lessons to be learnt on the need for physical and monetary consistency, and the need to allow adequate real interest rates in good time, it is quite clear that the general financial planning of the present monetary year has not made life particularly easy for anyone.

To arrive in the final quarter with the Government projecting an (unadjusted) public sector surplus for the three months of more than £2,000m and yet still needing to sell debt relatively heavily is obviously something of a nonsense. There are of course excuses this year.

The Government came in to office only in May, yet still jumped straight into a radical fiscal strategy; it needed time to plan the sale of assets; the Post Office dispute severely distorted the flow of funds; and the Government had to jam substantial corrective action against a full year PSBR overshoot into the last few weeks of the year.

All that is as may be. What I am saying is that it should be possible to plan things rather better for next time round. That said, the Government is never likely to be able to plan the perfect financial year.

Short-term forecasting is a hazardous business at the best of times, and it may be that public sector asset (as opposed to debt) falls may sometimes have to be timed to fit in with considerations other than flow of funds management.

The Government has, however consistently been pressed to do something about a debt marketing system under which it relies heavily on the gilt-edged market and suffers (under the tap system) considerable uncertainty as to the timing of receipts. If a tender system is unacceptable there, must at least be a strong case for seeing that the tap system is made to work with more flexibility and greater efficiency.

The second point concerns the apparent fashion for using the present situation to argue that a monetary base system would only have made the present problem far worse. There may well be problems attaching to a monetary base system, but it does seem wrong to be so instantly dismissive of it.

First it is ridiculous to argue that a monetary base system has to be so rigid that it could not have coped with recent events without dire consequences. The other side of this particular coin is that if the Bank of England had chosen to be totally inflexible under the present rules—and it could theoretically have chosen to be—the results would have been horrific.

The more important point however is that a monetary base system could have allowed for the provision of adequate banking reserves in a far more natural way than under the present system. It could have avoided the distortions in relative interest rates that have now finished up putting upward pressure of the level of interest rates in general.

Composite insurers

Braced for lower profits

Regrets season for the composite insurers which kicks off this week with results from Commercial Union on Tuesday, promises to

be a woeful affair. But as might be expected in one of the most heavily researched market sectors, share ratings are well-braced for significantly lower profits from the major groups with the exception of Eagle Star and possibly Guardian Royal Exchange.

Among the three big United States-oriented composites only General Accident is expected to turn in anything approaching last year's £90.1m pre-tax while falls of 17 per cent to £127m and 7 per cent to £134m seem on the cards for Royal Insurance and Commercial Union respectively.

The market's interest, however, will centre on prospects for profit recovery based on individual company's ability to beat the general downward trend in United States returns. Given the worsening conditions in American business this could be like looking for puddles in a drought, but at least the consensus view is that the current downswing in the United States insurance cycle is likely to be nothing like so severe as in 1974-75.

There are sound reasons why the nadir of this downturn is likely to be less deep possibly reaching a worst operating ratio—claims and expenses compared against premiums—of 106 per cent in early 1981 against the near-devastating 126 per cent level of 1974.

The economic background is brighter, for one thing, while the industry's solvency ratios, averaging perhaps 45 per cent, are generally a good deal lower than the industry figure of over 60 per cent in 1973 and should therefore restrain competition from going too far.

But like it or not, the British companies have already moved well into the dangerous game of "writing for income"—taking underwriting losses and relying on investment to provide earnings growth. With interest rates at current levels and American memory of the last great shake out still fading there is just the slight danger that competitive influences could once again see underwriting losses spiralling out of control.



Mr. Daniel Meinertzhagen and Sir Francis Sandilands, chairmen respectively of Royal Insurance and Commercial Union.

In this respect recent moves by British groups do not inspire complete confidence. Royal shipped out £60m to the United States in 1978 to support business and CU transferred a similar sum last year to back expansion of the kind which might cause shudders to those who recall the drastic plunge into loss in 1975. To be fair to CU current expansion in auto business is based on much sounder principles than the last crippling charge forward, but the market will want to see concrete evidence before it gives CU full benefit of the doubt.

Assuming that things do not go badly awry current investment returns should ensure earnings growth of between 10 and 15 per cent in the current year, while prospects for dividend increases of over 10 per cent over the next two years could lead to buying in anticipation of a recovery in underwriting in late 1981.

Despite the income attractions of yields of between 8 and 10 per cent there are, however, just sufficient nagging doubts, even discounting the possibility of climatic catastrophes—of which the California floods are not significant—to encourage caution in investment.

Two leading economists question the theory underlying the Government's policies

Monetarism: why Mrs Thatcher should beware

The Government's economic policies are now based on monetarist doctrine. Monetarist economists (for example, Professor Minford in *The Times*, February 4) are claiming to have achieved an economic counter-revolution, meaning a revolution in our understanding of how the economy works. Yet few people seem to know what is the precise nature of the claim or what are the objections to it.

This is not satisfactory. If there is the possibility of a flaw in the theory on which the Government's policies are based, it is better that it should be aired and recognized than that the Government should ride blindly into a crisis and adopt an ill-prepared alternative.

There are three points to consider. First, what precisely is the claim made by the monetarists? Secondly, what is its theoretical basis? Third, is that theory supported by evidence?

The monetarists' position is commonly stated by reference to demand and supply in the market for labour: firms will employ more labour the lower the real wage (the "real wage" is the real wage); on the other hand, workers will offer more labour the higher the real wage.

Hence there is a value for the real wage at which demand and supply are matched: everyone who wants a job at the going real wage will then be able to find one, apart from those who are searching for jobs and are not yet on the market. Output will be limited by the full use of the labour force and the level of productivity in the economy; and unemployment will be at its "natural" level.

In a period of inflation, monetary restriction, it is asserted, will retard the general price level but will temporarily cause each employer to think (wrongly) that he faces a fall in the real wage, and will cause him to offer, in some combination, a smaller wage increase and less employment than before.

Workers, for their part, believing that the smaller money wage increase represents a lower real wage, will offer less labour. So voluntary unemployment may temporarily rise above the "natural" level.

But soon employers and workers will discover that all prices have slowed down; so employers will offer more employment; and workers, discovering that the real wage has not fallen, will offer more labour and will succeed in getting more work until voluntary unemployment falls again to the natural rate. Conversely, for monetary expansion. In this world, it is impossible for anyone to be involuntarily unemployed, meaning unable to find a job at the going wage after searching for one.

This claim, though focused on the labour market, implies that, regardless of any changes in demand and supply, prices and quantities exchanged in all the markets for different goods and services, as well as the markets for labour and finance, will change in such a way that total output in the economy as a whole will tend to the level which is the counterpart of the "natural" level of unemployment. Monetarists commonly take this for granted or assert it, without offering any theoretical justification.

If one seeks a theoretical justification one is referred to the theoretical system of the nineteenth century mathematical economist Walras, who explored the conditions under which it is true to say that demand and supply in all the markets will be matched. An economy will come into balance ("equilibrium") at a level and pattern of output that cannot be bettered, given the tastes and assets (including the innate skills) of all its members.

To quote Professor Milton Friedman, the natural rate of unemployment "is the level that would be ground out by the Walrasian system of general equilibrium equations, provided there is embedded in them the actual structural characteristics of the labour and commodity markets, including market imperfections."

In the past decade, Walrasian equilibrium economics has been the subject of much study and refinement by mathematical economists. In the light of their work, Professor Friedman's appeal to Wal-

rasian economics to support his position does not stand up. To understand why, it is necessary to consider two distinct questions.

The first one is quite abstract and is of the following form. In a world in which every enterprise or other economic unit is so small that it takes as given the price at which it can buy or sell, can we find a particular set of prices (including wages) such that, if they ruled, the self-interested actions of everyone would be mutually compatible and produce equilibrium?

The answer to this question is "yes", but only provided very strong assumptions are made. For example, the absence of significant economies of scale and the supposition that no one can profitably affect the price at which he buys or sells.

Moreover, in order to accommodate the existence of time and the uncertainty about the future which goes with it, one must either suppose that there are many more future markets and insurance markets than is in fact the case, or suppose that people can foresee the future with such accuracy that nothing surprising can occur. Implicitly the monetarists always adopt these assumptions.

The second question is quite different. Given any initial set of prices, will market forces drive them towards values that ensure equilibrium? To this question, the monetarists' answer is "no".

Having decided that economic units are so small that they cannot affect prices, he is hard put to it to find any means by which prices actually change. As a way out, a fictitious "auctioneer" has to be introduced into all markets; the whole economy, including the labour market, has to be assumed to resemble a traditional "wheat market" or Sotheby's—and further assumptions have to be introduced.

In the theory, the auctioneer always lowers prices in markets where there is excess supply and raises them in markets where there is excess demand. But, in reality, there is no auc-

tioneer; and when actual firms and traders change prices, they may not behave like the theoretical auctioneer; for, if at the going price they cannot sell as much as they want, it is not always profitable to lower the price.

The auctioneer is abandoned and it is assumed that prices (and wages) are influenced by the actions of firms and trade unions, a new equilibrium concept emerges which is much closer to Keynes. It can be defined as follows: it is a set of prices, and a set of quantities which can actually be sold and bought at those prices, such that no one sees an advantage in price changes and everyone's plans are compatible. In this state, there can be no further change in prices. The question whether an economy tends to such an equilibrium rather than displaying instability is unanswered.

Thus, even if an economy tends to an equilibrium, it need not be the Walrasian one where there is no involuntary unemployment.

Imperfections

It should be noted that Professor Friedman's appeal to a Walrasian equilibrium, quoted above, is flawed. He implies that such an equilibrium will emerge from actual labour and commodity markets, with all their imperfections. Yet imperfections are, precisely, deviations from the conditions necessary for the attainment of that equilibrium.

There is abundant evidence that firms fix prices by adding a mark-up to their normal cost; and that they respond to variations in the demand for their products mainly by changing their output and the number of workers they employ, not the prices they charge or the wages they pay.

The same is broadly true of distribution, banking, insurance and many other services. The difference between the conditions in the real world and those in the Walrasian model is sharply brought into focus by asking the following question: would a typical British firm or shop be willing to sell more at the present price if the demand were there? Walrasian equilibrium, and hence the mone-

tarists' doctrine, require that the answer be no. Manifestly, the right answer is yes.

Flexible prices, with or without auctions, are to be found in the market for financial assets (that is, the stock market) and the markets for raw materials, foodstuffs and fuels. But the instability of free markets has proved to be so disruptive that, increasingly, there is regulation by official intervention.

Even where there is an auction and there are many small producers, the conditions required by Walrasian economics and the monetarists are not necessarily fulfilled. For if stocks are substantial relative to the flow through a market and it is dominated by speculative transactions, there is no guarantee that the price will move to a level which equates the flows of demand and supply.

As for the labour market, it is clear that wages are set by bargaining between trade unions and employers, not by anything resembling an auction; and that unemployment occurs because it is occurring now—because workers, though willing, are unable to get a job at the going wage; it is not caused just by workers (other than those changing jobs) refusing to take the jobs that are on offer because they believe that the real wage is too low.

There are neither theoretical foundations nor empirical support for the monetarists' proposition that the real economy is self-regulating and that activity and employment can be relied upon to recover automatically from the present fiscal and monetary squeeze.

It is not our purpose to propound or debate alternative policies here. Indeed we have held different opinions about policy in the past and might well do so again were we to debate it now. Our common concern is that the Government's policy, as well as analysis and debate of alternatives, should not be based on a misleading notion of how the economy works.

Frank Hahn
Robert Neild

The authors are both professors of Economics at the University of Cambridge.

John Huxley

Breathing new life into Quarry Bank

Few textile companies either side of the Pennines can match the ambitious development programme embarked upon recently by Quarry Bank Mill, at Sial, Cheshire.

While the industry continues to contract—400 cotton mills have closed over the past 10 years—Quarry Bank is being renovated. Water courses are being excavated, machinery is being installed and, later, a new team of spinners will fill the galleries.

Regrettably perhaps, the efforts of Mr David Sekers, who runs it, are directed not towards a restoration of King Cotton so much as a celebration of one of his most famous and successful customers, Samuel Greg.

Quarry Bank is, in the words of a Chinese visitor, a "museum of capitalism". Eventually, it will tell an instalment in the story of the Industrial Revolution by recreating the mill as it was during its heyday and by showcasing the enterprise of the Greg dynasty, which operated the mill from 1784.

Samuel Greg, "a perfect gentleman but rather choleric", was one of a new breed of entrepreneurs. At Sial, he established one of the first rural factory colonies.

Quarry Bank stands, imposing, dark, though not at all

serenic, in the secluded, wooded valley of the River Bollin. The site was chosen because it offered a good fall of water to power the mill, labour had to come from elsewhere. Many were apprentices, children recruited from poor houses in parishes as scattered as Liverpool, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Chelsea.

As much out of business sense as philanthropy, he provided an "apprentices" house and as the labour force expanded he added cottages, a school, a shop and a church. By the time of his death in 1834, he had created a highly successful company combining spinning, weaving and marketing.

Quarry Bank had by then become a source of inspiration with its 44-ton water wheel, the water race tunnel running three quarters of a mile underground.

It could be hard work, for apprentices and mill-workers were not always happy. A mutiny broke out in 1828, and Greg, who was leading a dog's life, "I never open a book... rise at 5.30 am, go to bed at 10 pm and toil like a galley slave all day."

In subsequent years, the four-story mill was handicapped by its cramped site. It could not, however, be isolated from the vicissitudes of the

textile industry. As early as 1887 it was "on its last legs". It hung on, literally clinging to the damp cliffs along the Bollin, until 1939. The last products were laundry bags.

Fortunately for posterity, the mill, village and the estate on which it stood had 22 years earlier been given by Mr Alex Greg, great, great, grandson of the founder, to the National Trust. At first, the trust attempted to secure the building's future by letting sections to small businesses, but by the end of the 1950s the mill was caught up with the mill. It stood empty, little more than a shell needing urgent repair.

Before then there would have been little hope for an old building like Quarry Bank. At the start of the 1970s, though, industrial archaeology was flourishing and the mill's worth was recognized.

The National Trust undertook to restore the mill—a task nearly completed. A shopping list adding up to £750,000 has been drawn up. So far £150,000 has been spent, besides the £250,000 spent by the National Trust on renovation. The museum opened in June, 1978, and later that year Mr Sekers was appointed museum director.

He describes himself as a "textile industry drop-out", having worked for several years in the family company, Sekers International, before opting out, and into the Gladstone pottery museum at Stoke.

Response to the project, which will be self-financing, has been good, he says. The museum has started with a huge amount of raw material, correspondence of the Gregs, accounts, essays written by apprentices, and the rest. But the project's success will depend largely on individual contributions.

Local textile companies have been able to offer Victorian machinery, much of which had been in use until recently and the engineering expertise to restore it to working order.

The people of Sial, whose village itself is part of the living museum, have given Mr Sekers the benefit of their own memories of working at Quarry Bank. "Old women, for example, say that, so far, I've been unable to capture the sense of fun enjoyed by those who worked in the mill. They say they used to dance to work," he said.

Eventually Mr Sekers and his enthusiastic team of assistants hope that apart from providing study facilities and displays of exhibits Quarry Bank will start producing again. "I want to see spinners and weavers working in a hot, sticky atmosphere at Quarry Bank. I'd like visitors to be able to see the water frames, the looms, working again."

Samuel Greg's eighteenth century cotton mill at Quarry Bank, Sial, Cheshire.

When Nigel Brookes became chairman of the new urban development corporation charged with the task of reviving the flagging fortunes of London's East End, he said that he regarded the docklands as "one of the most neglected areas of the country."

At the moment, some £262.2m of public money more than seven times the 1979 pre-tax profit of Mr Brookes' ships-to-newspapers Trafalgar House group—is committed to the task he will inherit.

By any criterion, that is a high level of neglect but it is easy to understand why Mr Brookes said what he did.

Docklands runs through five east London riverside boroughs—Newham, Southwark, Greenwich, Lewisham, and Tower Hamlets—all of which have been hit badly by the area's economic decline, notably in the operations of the Port of London and its ancillary trades.

The five councils, in partnership with the government and the Greater London Council, have been trying to attract industry back to the area since 1976, but with limited success.

While the programme to build new housing and roads in an area of extreme social deprivation has proceeded with pace, private enterprise has treated the project with some caution.

The two largest schemes attracted to the area are the transfer of the Billingsgate fish market from its present site in

Faith, hope and £356m

the City to the Isle of Dogs and the construction of a new headquarters for News International, publishers of the Sun and the *News of the World*, in Wapping.

But there are reservations about claiming either scheme as a great example of the docklands' success in industrial development.

The Billingsgate move has a good deal to do with an understandable desire to free for development the valuable land which it now occupies in the City, and the motives of News International stem to a large extent from the unique problems of newspaper distribution in Fleet Street.

Moreover, both schemes will tend to take their workers with them, giving little comfort to the docklands community, whose chronic unemployment instigated the redevelopment scheme in the first place.

Between them, the developments will employ around 5,000 people, few, if any, will be new jobs created in the docklands for local unemployed.

The Billingsgate and News International projects have been held up as examples of

the success of the strategy of the local councils, but the hollowness of the argument has not been lost on the Government.

This was one reason why Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, decided to replace the Docklands Joint Committee with an urban development corporation headed by Mr Brookes, with Mr Bob Mellish, the East End Labour MP as deputy chairman.

The new body will not start work until next year, but already its existence has been criticized by the local authorities who regard it as an unjust encroachment upon their traditional powers.

Their objections also stem from the knowledge that the organization will be given powers to introduce transport schemes, deal with intransigent statutory landowners, and generally bypass conventional local authority procedures in a way which councils would have loved to have possessed themselves.

The docklands project is now moving ahead, whether to success or to ultimate failure. Its new houses are replacing slums, and its new roads bringing in a transport system which will open it up to the rest of the country. The traditional heart of the docks and ship repair services—are either dead or dying. It remains to be seen what, if anything, will replace them.

David Hewson

Business Diary profile: Richard Langdon's battleground

Richard Langdon did a large part of the training for his accountancy qualifications while "sitting on a gunsite" during the war. It was an appropriate starting point for a man who might fight some formidable battles since.

The most recent of these, against fellow accountants Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, came to a curious end a couple of weeks ago. Both sides retired from the field, claiming that their honour was intact; but Langdon, in his capacity as liquidator to the fringe bank London & County, took £900,000 of Deloitte's indemnity insurance with him.

The case arose out of the collapse of London & County at the end of 1973, which precipitated the secondary banking crisis. Harmond Bank, a subsidiary of the company, had given a clean bill of financial health in their report on the accounts for the year to end March 1973, for which they were subsequently heavily criticized by the Department of Trade investigators into the company's affairs.

As liquidator for London & County, Langdon decided that Harmond Bank, which had merged and should be used for the losses—a dividend and taxes that would not have been paid had the true position been obvious—that resulted from publication of the unqualified report.

More controversially he also sued for the losses made in three to six months trading that would not have been undertaken had the company died, at the start of 1973.

It was, says Langdon, reser-

vedations about the amount he would actually get on the latter account even if judgment was given in his favour, that disposed him to listen with interest when Deloitte, still vigorously protesting its innocence, proposed a settlement out of court.

As the reverberations of this particular fracas die away, he is applying his mind, again on behalf of the creditors of L & C, to the interesting question of whether anything can be

extracted from the company's former presiding genius, Gerald Caplan. "I do not," says Langdon, "know much about Caplan; but I do know a good deal about his affairs."

Langdon, now 60, is no stranger to the sound and fury of City scandal. As senior partner and managing partner of Spicer & Pegler, a firm of accountants with a long, strong line in City connections, he has been called in often enough by banking clients nervous about

the security of their loans. He was one of two Department of Trade Inspectors appointed to investigate the affairs of the National Group of Unit Truists, headed by Sir Denis Lawson, former Lord Mayor of London, during 1973.

Langdon is, moreover, deputy chairman of NIFC, though it vigorously repudiates any suggestion of scandal attached to the "lifeboat" of the "lifeboat".

He says he enjoys the "Lancaster" work on which spends half his time; that the pressure is exciting, and the deadlines a challenge. The first few weeks, he says, are always the toughest, particularly in a potential disaster.

"You have to trim the sails, turn the thing around, maybe bail it out... to keep it afloat. After a while you get the thing organized—and then, if you can't do it, they should be asked to."

"Anyway," he says, "proceeding with engaging frankness a view which would certainly be considered heretical in most of the big audit firms, I don't think that anyone should work more than five or six hours a day on a continuous basis. You become pretty inefficient otherwise."

This evident enjoyment is in stark contrast to his status in accountancy, filling in a year (before going up to Oxford) at the behest of his father, a self-made man in the best tradition of Spicer & Pegler clients, who did not believe that a graduate was of much use to anyone.

Thought accountancy "rather dull," but was sufficiently hooked on "dealing

with real things" when war broke out that autumn, to continue studying in the army, and qualify as soon as possible thereafter.

He joined Spicer & Pegler—then a six-partner firm with one of the original (1902) founding family still in charge—in 1949, and helped to develop the policies that took the firm out of its association with their leading provincial counterparts in the 1950s.

"There was rather a feeling then, among the older members, that the grass grows green in the City... so why bother?" he says now. "But we couldn't have built up the United Kingdom connexion, or that overseas, unless everyone had agreed."

Spicer & Pegler still specializes in City work, and in the smaller public company, which is entirely agreeable to Langdon. "I think this is the way things will have to develop: everything will have to go into smaller units."

I believe that a lot of our problems today stem from the fact that people are working at jobs they do not enjoy: they are just cogs in a large machine... people should work for themselves. You work harder, but you enjoy it more."

As for the future of accountancy, he is firmly of the opinion that we need good auditing; we need people of an inquisitive and inquiring nature. There is a danger in the proliferation of standards.

Adrienne Gleeson



Gunner Langdon and his part in London & County's downfall.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

The market will be looking with more than just passing interest at the batch of blue chips reporting this week in order to gain some boost to trading after one of the duller accounts for a long time.

Full-year figures from ICI on Thursday head the list followed by three of the big financial institutions including Commercial Union, General Accident and National Westminster Bank.

Another busy week is also in store among the economic indicators starting today with the retail sales index for January from the Department of Trade. On Tuesday the Department of Employment publishes the unemployment figures for February, followed on Thursday by the overtime and short-time working and the amount of time lost through stoppages and industrial unrest.

Finally, on Friday, the Department of Industry reports on car and commercial vehicle production for January.

Analysts are expecting National Westminster to put in the strongest performance of the major clearing banks when it reports on Tuesday. Recent results from its major United

Market pins hopes on blue chips

States acquisition, National Bank of North America, were disappointing while the Lombard North Central finance house also turned in lower profits because of high interest rates.

However, at home the usual combination of high base rates and strong loan demand will produce handsome domestic banking profits which could also benefit from lower bad debt provisions.

NatWest is also nearing the end of its big capital spending programme with the near completion of the tower and the new computer centre. Estimates of 1979 pre-tax profits range from a 50 per cent increase from £297.4m to £446.2m from W. Greenwell to a 58 per cent rise to £470m from Phillips & Drew.

Also on Tuesday the first of the large insurance companies reports with Commercial Union unveiling its full year earnings. The severe weather conditions experienced in Britain during the first half of last

year are expected to have made a severe dent in the company's performance. Estimates range from £133m to £143m compared with £142.2m last year.

Mr Peter Martin of brokers Capel Cure Myers also anticipates a profits setback from

This week

underwriting losses in North America. As a result he expects the net dividend to rise by 1p to 9.5p compared with a sector average of around 18 per cent.

The week is rounded off on Thursday with full-year figures from ICI, which will include the first full-year inclusion of its substantial North Sea oil interests.

On Wednesday, full year profits from General Accident are announced. These, too, are likely to show the ravages of

adverse weather conditions which will have had an adverse effect on earnings. Analysts in this case are pinning hopes on the glitter of profits.

A dividend of 31.43p is hoped for by some observers which give an increase of 14 per cent over last year's payment.

The outlook for the current year remains somewhat distorted. While profits from Ninian Field should exceed £140m on a basis of \$34 a barrel, technical production difficulties currently being encountered may well see this figure fall short. On the industrial side the world recession is bound to have some effect although to quite what extent is proving difficult to judge.

TODAY Interims: Electronic Machine. Finals: Alexander Higgs, Charles Baynes, Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, Rhodesian Corp, Ward Higgs & Yule Camo.

TOMORROW Interims: F Austin (Leyton), Peter Brotherhood,

Nolton, and Raine Engineering Inds. Finals: Aizo NV, IF & H. Braine (Higgs), Commercial Union, English & Scottish invest, Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp, IMI, Investing in Success, Equities, London & Lomond Invest, Metalbox (Higgs), Mount Charlotte Invest, National Westminister Bank and Vancouver, Wednesday Interims: Aus-tralian & Indi Tst (amended), BOC Int'l (1st qtr), BPM Higgs, and Johnson Marthey (9 months). Finals: AC Cars, Allen Harvey & Ross, Edinburgh, General Accident Fire & Life Ass, Hoover and Moore, side Tst.

THURSDAY Interims: Campari Int'l, Challenge Corp, Commercial Bank of Australia, Footwear Industry Inv, London Shop Property Inv, Scottish Inv Tst (1st qtr), Thomas Walker, and Wiman Invest (9 months). Finals: Cardinal Invest Tst, and Imperial Chemical Inds.

FRIDAY Interims: Christy Bros. Finals: Habit Precision Engineering, Manchester Ship Canal, and Woodhouse & Rixson (Higgs).

Michael Clark

Brokers approval for Marsh bid

The British Insurance Brokers Association has told the Office of Fair Trading that the world's largest insurance brokers, Marsh McLennan of the United States, should be allowed to take over Lloyd's brokers, C. T. Bowring.

The move comes as Bowring is doing everything it can to resist the bid.

A spokesman for the BIBA said: "We have sent this memorandum to the Office of Fair Trading, but it was confidential and I cannot discuss its contents."

It is understood that the general tone of the BIBA opinion is in favour of allowing the Americans into the London Market.

Motives for the move are thought to be influenced by the fact that several large British insurance brokers are looking at the possibility of takeovers in the United States and do not want nationalistic barriers to

arise among American brokers should their biggest group be shut out of the United Kingdom.

It is understood that Marsh's £253m offer for Bowring could soon clear the US Securities Exchange Commission hurdle which has been holding up progress of the bid.

Marsh Mac had hoped to enter London without a fight. Both insurance groups had spent some months discussing possible "pooling" arrangements but when it became clear that these could not work, the duo began talking seriously in the City.

The insurance world says that when Bowring realised that Marsh would be the dominating force of any merger, talks were called off.

That spurred Marsh to launch its takeover bid fairly close to what some believe would be an acceptable price to many of Bowring's institutional shareholders.

Smallshaw bill for loss of office

R. Smallshaw (Knitwear), the Leicester-based knitted garments maker paid £22,500 in compensation for loss of office during the year to last September, according to the annual report.

The report shows that Mr Noel West resigned as a director of the group last February.

In his statement to shareholders, chair-man, Mr Robert Smallshaw says the group order book is shorter than at this time last year.

"In view of this I feel it would be unwise to forecast profits for 1980," he says.

Smallshaw, whose profits last year were barely changed, at £340,000 after a strong recovery in the past three years, shows borrowings up from £309,000 to £521,000.

More being prosecuted over files

Prosecutions for failure by companies to file accounts quadrupled last year, according to figures disclosed in the House of Commons by the Department of Trade.

A written answer to Plaid Cymru MP Mr Gwynfor Iwan, Mr David Wigley, revealed the number of prosecutions for failing to file accounts rose from 818 in 1978 to 3,103 last year.

The Department of Trade said that the Companies Act 1976 allowed it to place more emphasis on cases where accounts were outstanding. Five years ago they took action in only 93 cases.

Figures last year showed a sharp increase from £71,000 to £132,000, and the number of reminder letters doubled

Business appointments

Three new directors for Rediffusion board

Mr R. F. G. Dennis, Mr W. S. Robertson and Mr C. S. Willis have been appointed to the board of Rediffusion.

Mr P. W. Gore will become company secretary for Courage when Mr G. P. Maddison retires on March 31.

Mr Peter Till has been appointed to the main board of Butterfield-Harvey. Mr Derek Hall has resigned to develop his own interests. The group executive committee has also been restructured. Mr Victor Wyatt becomes group controller and the managing directors of two member companies, Mr Pat Frewer of South Western Marine Factors and Mr John Barnes of Beldray, join the committee as well as being appointed chairmen of their respective companies. A number of changes in member companies also take place: Mr Stanley Quin, chairman of Shelvoke &

Drewry assumes the chair of Halladay's, Halladay's Drop Forgings, Weston Hydraulics and B-H Machinery. Mr Edward Green, high become chairman of Harvey-Haybridge and the group chief executive, Mr Geoffrey Yates, takes the chair of Mustang Caravans on a temporary basis.

Sir Monty Finniston has been appointed a non-executive director of Anderson Strathclyde.

Mr J. J. S. Henderson has been appointed by London and Manchester Assurance as general manager (investments) from June 1.

Mr L. J. Tolley is to retire from the chairmanship and the board of Fodens and Mr D. Paybody, a member of the board, is to succeed him.

Mr Jonathan A. Meighan has joined Dowry Group as assistant managing director of Ultra Electronic Components.

TENDERS MUST BE LODGED NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27th FEBRUARY, 1980, at the BANK OF ENGLAND, New Street, LONDON, EC4M 9AA, OR NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 26th FEBRUARY, 1980, at ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND OR AT THE GLASGOW AGENCY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND. TENDERS MUST BE IN SEALED ENVELOPES MARKED "TREASURY TENDER".

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £800,000,000

14 per cent TREASURY STOCK, 1996

MINIMUM TENDER PRICE £95.50 PER CENT

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:

Deposit with tender £20.00 per cent
On Tuesday, 18th March, 1980 £20.00 per cent
On Friday, 11th April, 1980 Balance of purchase money

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 22ND JANUARY AND 22ND JULY

This Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Finance Act 1961. Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND are authorised to receive tenders for the above Stock.

The principal of interest on the Stock will be charged on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

The Stock will be repaid at par on 22nd January, 1996.

The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable in multiples of one new penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.

Interest will be payable half-yearly on 22nd January and 22nd July. Income tax will be deducted from interest more than £5 per annum. Interest warrants will be transmitted by post. The first payment will be made on 22nd July, 1980, at the rate of 14.5550 per cent of the nominal amount.

Tenders must be lodged not later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 27th February, 1980, at the Bank of England, New Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or not later than 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 26th February, 1980, at any of the Branches of the Bank of England or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England. Each tender must be for one amount and at one price. The minimum price, below which tenders will not be accepted, is 95.50 per cent. Tenders must be made at the minimum price or in multiples of one penny above it. Tenders must be made at the minimum price or in multiples of one penny above it. Tenders must be made at the minimum price or in multiples of one penny above it.

A separate cheque representing a deposit of £20.00 per cent of the nominal amount tendered for each tender must be drawn on a bank in, and payable in, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. Tenders must be for a minimum of £100 Stock and for multiples of £100 as follows:-

Amount of Stock tendered for	Multiple
£100-£2,000	£100
£2,000-£5,000	£500
£5,000-£10,000	£1,000
£10,000-£20,000	£2,000
£20,000-£50,000	£5,000
£50,000-£100,000	£10,000

Her Majesty's Treasury reserves the right to reject any tender or to allot a less amount than that tendered for. If under-subscribed, the Stock will be allotted at the minimum price, the balance of Stock not tendered for being allotted at the minimum price to the tenderers who tendered at the minimum price. If over-subscribed, all allotments will be made at the lowest price at which a tender is accepted (the allotment price), and tenders at prices above the allotment price will be allotted in proportion to the amount tendered.

Letters of allotment in respect of Stock allotted will be despatched by post at the risk of the tenderer. No allotment will be made for a less amount than £100 Stock. In the event of partial allotment, the balance of the amount paid as deposit will be refunded by cheque despatched by post at the risk of the tenderer. If no allotment is made the amount paid as deposit will be returned likewise. Payment in full may be made at any time after allotment but no discount will be allowed on such payment. Default in the payment of any instalment by its due date will render the deposit and any instalment previously paid liable to forfeiture and the allotment to cancellation.

Letters of allotment may be split into denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England, New Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or by any of the Branches of the Bank of England, on any date not later than 9th April 1980. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment (but a letter cannot be split if any instalment payment is overdue).

Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the balance of the purchase money is paid. Instalment payments in full have been made before the due date, in which case they may be surrendered for registration not later than 11th April, 1980.

Tender forms and copies of this prospectus may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, or at the Bank of Ireland, P.O. Box 13, Donegal Place, Belfast, BT1 3BX; at Mullens & Co., 15 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6AN; or at any office of The Stock Exchange.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
22nd February, 1980.

THIS FORM MAY BE USED

TENDER FORM

This form must be lodged not later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 27th February, 1980, at the Bank of England, New Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or not later than 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 26th February, 1980, at any of the Branches of the Bank of England or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England. Tenders must be in sealed envelopes marked "Treasury Tender".

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £800,000,000

14 per cent Treasury Stock, 1996

MINIMUM TENDER PRICE £95.50 PER CENT

TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND

I/We tender in accordance with the terms of the prospectus dated 22nd February, 1980, as follows:-

Amount of above-mentioned Stock tendered for, being a minimum of £100 and is a multiple of £100 as follows:-

Amount of Stock tendered for	Multiple
£100-£2,000	£100
£2,000-£5,000	£500
£5,000-£10,000	£1,000
£10,000-£20,000	£2,000
£20,000-£50,000	£5,000
£50,000-£100,000	£10,000

The price tendered per £100 Stock, being a multiple of 25p and not less than the minimum tender price of 95.50p:-

Amount of deposit enclosed, being £20.00 per cent of the nominal amount of Stock tendered for:-

I/We hereby engage to pay the instalments as they shall be payable due to any allotment that may be made in respect of this tender, as provided by the said prospectus.

I/We request that any letter of allotment in respect of Stock allotted to me/us be sent by post at my/our risk to me/us at the address shown below.

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

SURNAME OF TENDERER

MR./MRS. MISS OR TITLE

FIRST NAMES IN FULL

ADDRESS IN FULL

STAMP OF LODGING AGENT (IF ANY)

Prospectors ready to blaze new trails

From St Johns, Newfoundland, to Vancouver, British Columbia, prospectors are polishing their picks in anticipation of winter's end. For 1980 could be a boom year in Canadian mining.

While attention has focused on gold and South Africa, and on the stock market surge in Australia, British investors may have forgotten that the factors buying up markets in those countries also apply north of the 49th parallel.

Two particular facts make Canada attractive, apart from the generally favourable political and investment environment. One is the large number of mining companies, across the whole spectrum of metals into uranium, asbestos, and of course oil and gas, which are sitting on good deposits. The other, from the standpoint of the British investor, is the relative weakness of the Canadian dollar.

Mining

Among the major deposits which were discovered in Canada in the 1970s are: copper at Galore Creek, Minto-Del, Schaft Creek, Carleton Place, and Copper Lake; nickel at Great Lakes Nickel, Raglan and Sudbury; zinc and lead at Polaris, Cyprus, Anvil, Tom, Howard's Pass, Grum, and Isok Lake.

Among minerals other than metals, coal abounds, especially in the prairies; asbestos is found at Eastern Townships and Abitibi; and on occasions the whole country seems to be made of uranium, notably if you live around the Athabasca Basin, site of the famous rare sands.

But despite the high rate of significant finds, investment funds have been surprisingly slow in coming. During the past decade Canadian capital and replacement spending on primary mineral production went up by only 4 per cent a year.

Moreover, this average conceals a steep fall towards the end of the decade. Capital spending in 1979 was \$C480 million (£182 million), or about 20 per cent below the trend, according to Mr Hugh Snyder, president and chief executive of Brinco.

Although the rates of uranium, oil and gas-Canadian companies have attracted considerable investment from outside, mainly from oil companies, other developments have clearly suffered from inflation. It is estimated that a copper mill and smelter with an annual capacity of 100,000 tonnes a year would

Prospectors ready to blaze new trails

now cost about C\$750m to bring to operation, at 1979 prices, compared with half as much 10 years ago.

The very long lead time in developing such a mine means that new sources of finance will be required, a need reinforced by high interest rates. More support from customers, perhaps by way of loans, leasing arrangements, and more government participation, through guarantees to banks, infrastructure expansion and tax concessions are among the ideas under discussion. The Canadian mining industry is extremely anxious to relieve what it regards as the complex burden of federal and provincial taxes.

The other side of the coin, however, is that those mines already functioning should do well. In the current climate, the leaders must be the gold mines. It is worth remembering three points. First, all these companies are small—or at least the gold mines are—and on price/earnings multiples of between 12 and 20 times latest earnings the shares are very exposed to weaker gold prices. Second, operating costs are increasing by 10-15 per cent a year. Third, ore reserves are small, and the deposits are often convoluted.

These drawbacks can be seen in Dome Mines, one of the Canadian analysts' favourites. While the leverage on earnings per share to each \$20 rise in the gold price is about 12 cents, proven reserves at current operating rates are just three years. Nevertheless, earnings per share last year could be C\$3.50 compared with C\$2.53 in 1978. But at about 12 times earnings, the stock is not considered unduly expensive or risky, at least in Canada.

One reason in the case of Dome for the optimism is that gold reserves are in fact much bigger than proven ore figures suggest. The mine has been producing for nearly 70 years, and the large Timmins property is considered to be rich. A second point in its favour is that Dome has extensive other interests, including 26 per cent of Dome Petroleum, which has a stake in the Beaufort Sea, 20 per cent in Canada's largest uranium producer, Cameco, and 53 per cent of Sigma, both gold

Prospectors ready to blaze new trails

producers, and 10.1 per cent in Denison Mines, one of the country's six uranium producers.

For those of a more nervous disposition, who grow restless at night on contemplating Sigma's leverage of about 36 cents on earnings per share for a \$20 rise in the gold price, an interesting proposition is Teck Corporation.

The company mines most of the metals known to man, including precious ones, and has the obligatory energy interests

Michael Prest

Some pointers for those tempted to invest in oil shares

For investors who have been captivated by the activity in the oil sector in the past week, the quarterly oil review from Montagu, Loeb, Stanley & Co provides some pointers with recommendations to stay with most of the leading producer companies. Lasso is considered to be the pick of the bunch by Mr Nicholas Thornley and Mr Brendan Wilders, who say that the shares should be bought on any weakness. "Such are the attractions of the company to predators, particularly crude-short companies, that we consider Lasso should be valued on an asset basis which we estimate to be not less than £5.50 a share," they say.

And asset values could be considerably higher if the more optimistic estimates of the group's T-block reserves are proved to be justified, they add.

In a general view of the changing world oil scene, Mr P. L. Morgan of Capel Cure Myers points out that stocks are likely to remain at higher levels than previously. This is because of the fragmentation of the oil distribution network that has resulted from the increased volumes of crude now being sold by producer countries direct to governments and other new customers.

The impact of recently increased oil prices will also have a bearing on the chemical industry, according to Mr George Priebke of Panmure Gordon. He says that United Kingdom chemicals companies which are already experiencing difficult trading conditions, should see earnings growth further undermined by additional energy costs.

Chemicals which are expected to see a hefty contribution to profits of £79m in 1979 and £150m in 1980 from its 10 per cent stake in the Ninian oil field.

Speciality groups such as Laporte and BOC are also on the list for increased earnings. Other companies with proven records of strong and consistent growth, such as BTR, Kenton and Stewart Plastics are included on the recommended list.

From Williams de Broe Hill Chaplin, United Kingdom, a suggestion that shares should be bought on any relative weakness as a medium and long-term investment. Pretax profits in 1980 should reach at least £51m despite another sharp rise in interest rates, particularly as the group is well-placed to cope with any

Some pointers for those tempted to invest in oil shares

trading-down in the biscuit market, while price increases below the inflation rate should ensure that volume holds up.

Mr R. A. Brand says that AB Foods should make around £100m in the year to March, but the shares could be vulnerable to any adverse political or trading developments, although it is going for profits through greater efficiency and development of existing activities.

Mr Brand has also lowered his forecasts for Rowntree Macintosh in 1979 and 1980 to £40.5m and £45m respectively, saying that the scope for

further under-performance is probably limited, but it is too soon to consider purchases. Hedderley, Stirling, Grumbar's look at the Burton Group concludes that the shares are cheap and that it offers one of the best retail investments of the 1980s. Backed by property assets in excess of 225p a share, controlled by a proven but still ambitious management team and structurally well balanced throughout the major growth areas of the United Kingdom clothing market, the shares are fundamentally good value," say Mr Robin Althaus, Mr Neil McNamee and Mr Keith Willis.

1980-81 profits should be 52 per cent higher at £27.7m compared with 1979's £18.2m.

There is less enthusiasm for Sears Holdings, from Williams de Broe Hill Chaplin, who says that the group's dominant footwear division is not now expected to fulfil the promise of the 1980s. Backed by property assets in excess of 225p a share, controlled by a proven but still ambitious management team and structurally well balanced throughout the major growth areas of the United Kingdom clothing market, the shares are fundamentally good value," say Mr Robin Althaus, Mr Neil McNamee and Mr Keith Willis.

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Capitalization and week's change

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\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days
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PERSONAL CHOICE



Peter Jones (left) plays an Arab with evil on his mind in *Jukes of Piccadilly* (ITV, 4.45).

● Those who complain that situation comedy is in the doldrums—and there are people who say that, believe it or not (cries of "Shame!")—should feel somewhat mollified tonight with the start of *Yes Minister* (BBC 2, 9.00). In this series the kitchen sink and the bedroom, the office and the factory, the husband/wife/lover/children/aunt/dog/vicar/undertaker permutations, and the other standard scenarios of sitcom have been cast aside. But what on earth is left? You scream, nerves at breaking point. Why the government, of course—and what could be funnier than that? Writers Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn have developed the theme of a new minister's relationship with his civil servants into a witty satire on the governance of Britain, to coin a phrase. Such topics as the EEC, official secrets and quangos may seem unpromising raw material, but just think about them for a moment and you'll see their rib-tickling potentialities. Paul Eddington plays the minister and his permanent secretary is Nigel Hawthorne (see also *Jukes of Piccadilly*, ITV, 4.45). Pity about the title, though.

● Talking about government, *Panorama* (BBC 1, 8.10) sets Robin Day on the Prime Minister to chew over the Tories' economic and industrial policies. It could be billed like a wrestling contest: the Iron Lady versus the Stainless Steel Fundit. Anyway, don't be surprised if things like picketing are mentioned. The other half of the programme features a report by Philip Tibenham on George Bush, the man some Americans are calling a Republican Jimmy Carter, on the eve of the New Hampshire primary. Guest appearance by Ronald Reagan, who has denounced Bush as a closet liberal but is sufficiently worried by him to abandon his quasi-presidential aloofness in favour of a toe-to-toe scrap.

● And talking about economic policy, Radio 4 launches a week-long series of programmes about the effects of public spending cuts with *You and Yours* person Sue Cook examining the provision of services from ante-natal care to playgrounds (Radio 4, 12.02). There is a follow-up phone-in on Tuesday when the series will go on to deal with education, pensioners, unemployment and health. The general title is *Coping with the Cuts*: it begins to look as if our sponsored society is suffering from a collective dose of paranoia.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (†) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by David Sinclair

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: 6.40 Tria Formulae. 7.05 Looking at Inequality. 7.30 In Search of Zion. Close down at 7.55.
9.00 For Schools. Colleges: 9.00 A Good Job with Prospects—Electronic Engineering (r). 9.30 Biology—Food and Population (r). 9.52 Communicate I (documentary about John Hersey's Hiroshima, about six A-bomb survivors). 10.15 Music Time (harmony with a barber shop quartet). 10.38 Maths Topics—Statistics (r). 11.00 Merry-go-round—Sleepers on the Hill (r).
11.25 You and Me: 1 2 3 4 5 (r).
11.40 For Schools. Colleges: General Studies—The Silicon Factor. 2. Closedown at 12.05.
12.45 am News.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Show-tumper Harvey Smith and his up-and-coming son launch a new series called *The Metal Chasers*. Also, on the day his new comedy series begins the star guest is Paul Eddington (see Personal Choice).
1.45 How Do You Do? Story is a Windy Day (r).

BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: 6.40 Modulation: 7.05 Quantum Theory and Atomic Structure. 7.30 Electron Microscopy. Close down at 7.55.
10.05 It Figures: Pictures and Charts. Jimmy Young's guide to everyday maths.
10.30 The Handicapped Family: Growing Up.
11.00 Play School: Same as BBC1 at 10.35. Close down at 11.25.
1.15 pm Let's Go... and lead a hand with Brian Ray.
2.30 Roads to Conflict: Nasser and Israel. The causes and consequences of the 1967 Middle East war (r).
3.00 That's the Way the Money Goes: Buying a Dream (r).
3.30 Delta Smith's Cookery Course: Buying and cooking chicken and duck (repeat from Friday).

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: My World—Boundaries. 9.47 Finding Out—Venice. 10.05 How We Used to Live (Victorian law and order).
10.28 Starting Out—Football Crazy. 2. 10.45 The Little Boy (the blood). 11.01 Documentar Return (life in the Yorkshire Oales).
11.22 Picture Box—Nico, Boy of the Streets. 11.39 Making a Living—The Bradford Godfather.
12.00 We'll Tell You a Story.
12.10 pm Rainbow, for children.
12.30 Numbers at Work (repeat from Sunday).

1.00 News with Peter Sissons.
1.20 Thames News with Robin Houston.
1.30 About Britain: Tom Weir visits the most northerly island of Orkney.
2.00 Food, Wine and Friends: Wine expert and author Hugh Johnson joins Robert Carrier.
2.30 Film: *Spacely*. A Flower (1969). Indifferent comedy about a monk who makes off with a secret formula for a liqueur on which his monastery's fortunes are based.
4.15 Clapperboard: Chris Kelly makes sense of the Olympics films, *Visions of Eight* and *White Rock*.

4.45 *Jukes of Piccadilly*: Peter Jones is the guest star in this comedy-thriller for children. Episodes one of a new story, *The Case of the Arabian Kidnap*.
5.15 Money-Go-Round: Joan Shenton and Tony Bastable look at car getting under the rising cost of getting around. Also, a glimpse of the business suit for women.
5.45 News.
6.00 Thames News with Andrew Gardner and Tricia Carter.
6.30 Crossroads: Adam asks Meg to tell a lie.
7.00 The Kenny Everett Video Show, starring Rod Gossop.
7.30 Coronation Street: Stan Ogden is sought by solicitors.
8.00 *Rushers Illustrated*: Willie begins rehearsals for the movie classic *Werewolf on the Gigantic*.
8.30 World in Action: The Final Harvest. An investigation into perhaps the most horrific after-effect of the Vietnam war—the deformed children and soldiers and civilians who came into contact with chemical defoliants like Agent Orange.
9.00 The Sandbaggers: It Couldn't Happen Here. Lovable Neil Burnside is involved in two apparently unconnected deaths.
10.00 News.
10.30 Film: *Two Mules for Sister Sara* (1969). Don Siegel Western in which tough guy Clint Eastwood learns something about life from resourceful nun Shirley Maclaine.
12.35 am Close: Michael Bentham reads Shelley's *Ozymandias*.



Paul Eddington (BBC 2, 9.00)

Regions

BBC 1. VARIATIONS: Wales: 1.45 pm Phil Pugh. 2.18 For Schools. 4.40 pm Phil Pugh. 5.15 News. 5.45 News. 6.00 News. 6.30 News. 6.55 News. 7.00 News. 7.05 News. 7.10 News. 7.15 News. 7.20 News. 7.25 News. 7.30 News. 7.35 News. 7.40 News. 7.45 News. 7.50 News. 7.55 News. 8.00 News. 8.05 News. 8.10 News. 8.15 News. 8.20 News. 8.25 News. 8.30 News. 8.35 News. 8.40 News. 8.45 News. 8.50 News. 8.55 News. 9.00 News. 9.05 News. 9.10 News. 9.15 News. 9.20 News. 9.25 News. 9.30 News. 9.35 News. 9.40 News. 9.45 News. 9.50 News. 9.55 News. 10.00 News. 10.05 News. 10.10 News. 10.15 News. 10.20 News. 10.25 News. 10.30 News. 10.35 News. 10.40 News. 10.45 News. 10.50 News. 10.55 News. 11.00 News. 11.05 News. 11.10 News. 11.15 News. 11.20 News. 11.25 News. 11.30 News. 11.35 News. 11.40 News. 11.45 News. 11.50 News. 11.55 News. 12.00 News. 12.05 News. 12.10 News. 12.15 News. 12.20 News. 12.25 News. 12.30 News. 12.35 News. 12.40 News. 12.45 News. 12.50 News. 12.55 News. 1.00 News. 1.05 News. 1.10 News. 1.15 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